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Hamburg scholar goes to bat for a duck called Donald

Where is Duckburgh, the home town of Donald Duck, Huey, Dewey and Louey, Unca Scrooge and a host of well-known Walt Disney cartoon characters? You may not have given the subject much thought recently, but others have.

Donald Duck is not only popular with children all over the world, he is also a cult hero with the New Left.

Pal Jensen, a Norwegian student of the Duck clan, reckons Duckburgh is on the US West Coast, Another school of thought claims it is on the Eastern seaboard, where the Mayflower landed.

Hans von Storch, a 27-year-old mathematician from Grosshansdorf, near Hamburg, reckons to have solved this particular teaser once and for all.

Unca Scrooge's houseboat is moored on the Ohio 2,400 miles away, which Hans von Storch estimates to be exactly 1,056 kilometres, assuming a Duck mile to be one thousand paces at 44 centimetres a time.

The Hamburg Duck scholar has checked the climate and other criteria of localities this distance from the Ohio and concludes that Duckburgh must be on the Atlantic coast roughly on a level with Washington D.C.

Hans von Storch may only be a Donald Duck scholar in his spare time but he does edit a mimeographed magazine entitled *Der Hamburger Donaldist*, circulation 150.

He is also a founder member of a Donald Duck club established in Hamburg just after Easter with the aim of "maintaining, furthering and promoting Donald's ideals along sacrosanct non-commercial lines."

He and about thirty friends share a slightly offbeat hobby and although they retain a sense of humour they are dedicated Donald Duck scholars to a man.

For some time they have devoted considerable thought and painstaking research into the reason why Huey, Dewey and Louey live with their Uncle Donald rather than with their mother.

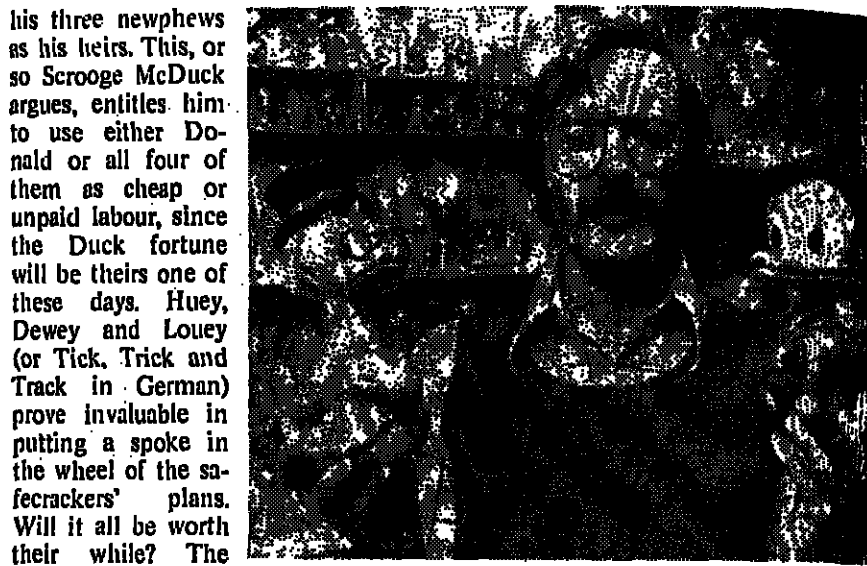
From various carefully annotated references Hans von Storch deduces that their mother departed from the straight and narrow and sent the trio to Uncle Donald not long after their birth.

Huey, Dewey and Louey soon realised that Donald is not the world's best parent and guardian and learnt how to cope with the world by virtue of their own acumen and what they were taught in their scout troop.

Donald Duck scholars are also keenly interested in Scrooge McDuck, Donald's fabulously rich uncle who lives in continual fear of being cleaned out by a gang of safe-crackers.

Heinz Boldt, a Düsseldorf Duck scholar, has caculated that Unca Scrooge is worth 23.79 trillion deutschmarks.

Unca Scrooge, or Onkel Dagobert in German (not to mention Tio Pathinas in Argentina, Onc' Piscou in France, Cika Baja in Yugoslavia or Onkel Joakim in Denmark) evidently regards Donald and his three newphews as his heirs. This, or so Scrooge McDuck argues, entitles him to use either Donald or all four of them as cheap or unpaid labour, since the Duck fortune will be theirs one of these days. Huey, Dewey and Louey (or Tick, Trick and Track in German) prove invaluable in putting a spoke in the wheel of the safecrackers' plans. Will it all be worth their while? The Hamburg Duck scholars wonder.


Hans von Storch with Donald and Unca Scrooge (Photo: Conti-Press)

They are currently engaged in a research project designed to ascertain whether Duckburgh's laws of inheritance entitle uncles to bequeath everything to their nephews. "A tricky problem," says Hans von Storch, furrowing his brow in approved legal fashion.

Research is also conducted into other Duckburgh characters — Daisy, for instance. It may be a zany hobby, but you get to know so many nice folk, Hans von Storch explains.

Is Daisy emancipated? She lives on her own and certainly gets her own way with the menfolk, What about Donald's cousin Gustav Gans with his proverbial good luck? Rumour has it that Cousin Gustav is a latent homosexual.

Most of the characters that delight readers of Donald Duck comics were thought up by Carl Barks, a US cartoonist who was associated with Duckburgh from 1942 to 1968.

Barks, his Hamburg fans claim, is the classic illustrator of the Duckburgh way of life. Artists who have taken his place fail to attain his pinnacle of achievement.

Yet even in Hamburg two schools of thought have evolved, the classicists who limit themselves strictly to bona fide source material and the left-wingers, let us say, who take a wider view of Donald Duck and his environment.

The left-wingers have already adopted current left-wing slogans in this country such as "No to nuclear power stations in Duckburgh!"

Both factions are agreed, however, that attempts to commercialise the study of Donald Duck and Co. are despicable.

"I feel it is a disgrace that good tales are misused for commercial ends," says Hans von Storch. "We are implacably opposed to all attempts to vulgarise our pure-as-the-driven-snow research work or to misuse it for profit-making ends."

Dieter Stäcker
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 April 1977)

The German Tribune

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Backing for nuclear option at London talks

"There is no such thing as an international employment policy," Bonn Finance Minister Hans Apel noted at one stage of the London summit.

He not only hit the nail on the head where the current differences in economic situation of Western countries are concerned; he also implicitly called into question the holding of summit meetings of this kind at all.

What more can the heads of government of the seven leading industrialised countries of the West do than promise each other to put their own houses in order with due regard for the problems of others?

This was bound to be all they accomplished in London, just as they were able to do little more at Rambouillet and Puerto Rico.

The London summit, however, differed from its predecessors in two respects that were particularly important from this country's point of view.

Chancellor Schmidt met President Carter for the first time since his inauguration and the agenda included, for the first time, exports of nuclear technology, which are a bone of contention in respect of energy, armaments and economic policy in general.

There was no breakthrough. The prospects of this country's nuclear industry remain uncertain for the time being.

Nuclear export business mean not only jobs. Nuclear power stations are a typical export sector for modern industrialised countries which will increasingly have to dispense with less sophisticated industrial exports if development aid is to prove effective in the long term.

With the countries concerned agreeing only to differ, a working party is to be set up to consider the problem. Its brief is to review the possibilities of further worldwide exploitation of atomic energy without heightening the danger of nuclear power being misused for military purposes.

This country was at pains to stress that neither the London summit nor the report of the working party must present countries not represented at the Western economic summit, but with nuclear export interests of their own with a *fait accompli*.

It remains to be seen whether Bonn's view will gain acceptance. The London summit merely agreed that atomic energy must, in principle, be utilised. Whether or not it may be exported is another matter.

Even if fuel supplies for nuclear power stations already delivered are assured without further discrimination, the wording of such agreement as was reached at London remains compatible with the US view that there should be a ban on the export of sensitive equipment.

The London agreement will, on the other hand, prove a shot in the arm for the domestic nuclear debate. All concerned were agreed that the nuclear option must be taken.

What is more, Lower Saxony Premier Ernst Albrecht will not be able to play for time any longer in respect of proposals to set up a reprocessing plant for nuclear fuel and radioactive waste disposal facility in his state.

Herr Albrecht has argued in Hanover that the United States may agree to provide a final resting-place for radioactive waste. President Carter firmly quashed any such idea in London.

The London summit likewise performed a useful function inasmuch as President Jimmy Carter met the other leaders for the first time and will now no doubt be tempted to formulate a new non-proliferation policy. In other respects time will tell whether the London summit has been a success. Much will depend on the progress made towards a solution of the North-South clash, with the Paris talks on international economic cooperation due for resumption at the end of May. The summit will also have proved a success if it turns out to have spiked the guns of protectionsim. But doubts arose even while the summit was in session.


President Jimmy Carter with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at the London economic summit. In the background Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher talks with US State Secretary Cyrus Vance (Photo: dpa)

Mention was made of ailing key industries, such as steel and shipbuilding, and there was talk of exceptions to free trade, with concepts such as *libéralisme organisé* and controlled competition being aired.

In conjunction with the undertaking to forgo protectionism the new IMF credit facilities may have laid the groundwork for an uninterrupted international economic recovery. Maybe the Gatt talks too will be given a fresh lease of life.

As for this country, it remains to be seen whether it will be allowed to proceed serenely towards its target of a five-per-cent growth rate this year or whether other Western countries will intervene to urge Bonn to pull the stops out, as Hans Apel put it.

For the time being Dr Apel sees no need to go all out for reflation, but Britain in particular is so emphatic about the obligations it feels are incumbent on countries with export surpluses that agreement at London may yet prove to have been little more than a lull before the storm.

Eberhard Wisdorff
(Handelsblatt, 9 May 1977)

IN THIS ISSUE

Summit pressure on Bonn to boost world economy

"All these senior statesmen have been a great help to me," President Carter is on record as having said with a grin. The London summit in many respects revolved around two questions: how is international economic recovery to be brought about and who holds the key?

It goes without saying that this country is felt first and foremost to hold the key, and President Carter's reference to "senior statesmen" was doubtless mainly, and indeed rightly, made with Helmut Schmidt in mind.

The Bonn delegation did its best to maintain a low profile, but pressure was unmistakeable even before the summit began. Between them the industrialised countries have fifteen million unemployed, not to mention two-figure inflation rates in many countries and social and political unrest.

In their midst this country, a relative newcomer to the upper echelons of world affairs, is well-heeled and boasts an inflation rate of a mere four per cent or so.

Countries such as Italy, Britain and France brought considerable behind-the-scenes pressures to bear to induce Bonn to reflate just a little faster with a view to short-term growth.

Both governments and the media in their respective countries took good care to spell out the message in no uncertain terms.

Western leaders pointed out in Downing Street that life is hard back home, and some of them were able to refer to Communist pressure, but neither M. Giscard d'Estaing nor Signor Andreotti went so far as to urge Herr Schmidt to reflate regardless.

Helmut Schmidt and Hans Apel claimed that this country is keenly interested in growth and full employment both nationally, and internationally, but not at the price of higher inflation.

In the medium term, they explained, higher inflation leads to unemployment, which is what reflation is intended to combat in the short term.

The Chancellor went to great lengths to refute allegations that this country is not doing enough to speed the pace of international economic recovery. This accusation was not reiterated at the London summit.

Budget deficits have been run up, so have imports. Surpluses are on the decline once invisibles are taken into account. The floating deutschmark has steadily been revalued. Bonn is ploughing 16,000 million deutschmarks into economic investment. Ailing economies have been given a shot in the arm in the form of loans and monetary support measures.

All these measures, Herr Schmidt pointed out, are steps in the right direction, helping deficit countries to get their economies back on an even keel.

Behind the scenes, government officials had obviously been beavering away at ths particular problem, so it was not exaggerated at the London summit, with the lessons Mr Carter reckoned to have learnt proving a stabilising factor.

The seven Western leaders were not expected to draft an impressive programme to combat unemployment. There would have been little point in an attempt, since each and every country has problems of its own and ways and means of dealing with them.

But a great deal may have been gained by establishing and maintaining contact between them, thereby fostering confidence.

Peter Gillies
(Die Welt, 9 May 1977)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Wrangle over troop strengths between East and West in Vienna



At 11 a.m. on 15 April a moment of truth descended on the latest round of MBFR troop cut talks in Vienna, which have probably been the most fruitless East-West talks in the history of detente to date.

In the Baroque conference hall at the Hofburg, the Habsburg Imperial palace in Vienna, Nikolai Terassov as head of the Soviet delegation called on the West to abandon its arbitrary estimates of East bloc troop strength in Poland, the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

It was high time, he claimed, that the West conceded that troop strengths were roughly equal on both sides. Troop cuts must thus be equal so as to ensure that neither side sustains any loss of security and to ensure the implementation of military detente as a sequel to political detente in Europe.

There could be little doubt about the objective of this conference table move. Eastern European governments are anxious to avoid joint probes of the glaring discrepancy between the troop strengths to which they admit and the Eastern bloc supremacy in Central Europe that Western intelligence agencies allege to exist.

Should the need arise, the East bloc will doubtless try to insinuate that Nato has both got its figures wrong and vastly exaggerated the true state of affairs, the aim being to sow doubts as to the reliability of Nato troop strength figures.

The East bloc is also keen to fuel the fires of impatience among people in the West who feel the protracted MBFR talks have been going on for far too long and would be prepared to settle for symbolic troop cuts on both sides for detente's sake so that a mutual balanced force reduction agreement is finally concluded.

On 10 June 1976 Soviet chief delegate Oleg Khlestov stated on behalf of the East bloc countries that the Warsaw Pact had 987,300 men under arms stationed in Poland, the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

Troop strength, he claimed, totalled 805,000, plus air force manpower totalling 182,000. Nato estimates arrived at an entirely different figure: 1,163,000 men, including 962,000 soldiers and 201,000 airmen.

Air force manpower estimates do not differ to any great extent. Nineteen thousand men may not be neither here nor there, but they hardly constitute a substantial discrepancy and Nato does not, in any case, propose to include air forces in the troop cut provisions.

All Nato has in mind where air forces are concerned is to propose a manpower freeze at present levels, with an upper limit of 200,000 men on either side.

Land forces in Central Europe are the real bone of contention, with the Warsaw Pact claiming to have 805,000 men stationed in its sector of the area in which troop cuts are envisaged, while the West estimates East bloc troop strength in Poland, the GDR and Czechoslovakia at 962,000.

The difference of 167,000 men amounts to fifteen per cent of the total, or almost exactly what the East bloc has in mind by way of troop cuts (since 1973 the Warsaw Pact has proposed across-the-board troop cuts ranging between thirteen and seventeen per cent).

These figures are, of course, a year old. At the latest count the discrepancy between Eastern claims and Western estimates amounts to roughly 171,000 men.

Since 1973 Nato has upgraded from 777,000 to 791,000 its estimate of Western land forces manpower in the Federal Republic of Germany, West Berlin and Benelux.

During the same period, however, Western estimates of East bloc troop strength in its sector of Central Europe have been revised from 925,000 to 962,000.

In other words, while the two sides have been negotiating in Vienna the East bloc, which already has the larger number of troops stationed in the area, has quietly increased its troop strength by 23,000.

What is more, the number of East bloc tanks has increased since 1970 by at least 2,000 to between 11,500 and 12,000. Since the talks began in Vienna, East bloc superiority in tanks in Central Europe has increased in ratio from two and a half to three to one.

Yet Nato has done no more than to raise the issue of tank superiority. It does not insist on a reduction to equal numbers. And in order not to prejudice still further the MBFR talks' prospects of success the West has also abandoned its original objective of including Hungary in the troop cut zone.

Hungarian and Soviet troops are stationed in Hungary. Their equipment includes roughly 3,000 tanks.

The West is content to make do with a one-off withdrawal of 1,700 Soviet tanks in the form of five tank divisions and 68,000 men from the GDR. In theory these tanks and other equipment are then to be mothballed.

So the clash over figures at Vienna is anything but the hairsplitting against which this country's Helmut Schmidt warned when he was Defence Minister.

What is at stake is the initial troop strength Nato aims to transform into an approximate balance. The East bloc too is talking in terms of balance and has done so since Mr Brezhnev's East Berlin speech of 29 June 1976, the difference however being that Moscow feels this approximate balance already exists.

Since the beginning of 1976 East bloc delegates have been at pains to point out that tens of thousands of civilian personnel back up Nato forces, whereas men in uniform carry out their duties in the Warsaw Pact.

The next step would logically be to assert that with the inclusion of civilian personnel Nato manpower stands at a higher level than that of the Warsaw Pact, although East bloc delegates have yet to go this far.

Alternatively it could be argued that troop strengths might be roughly equal if support personnel were included; but that Nato manpower is in fact the lower of the two.

Nato delegates in Vienna not only make this point; they also note that East bloc border guards and security forces who are armed forces in all but name ought then to be included in the package.

East bloc delegates have since stated that their 805,000-strong land forces in Central Europe include all active service personnel in uniform except forces seconded to duties that do not come under Defence Ministry jurisdiction and armed units in other than military uniforms.

This is a verbal tight-rope walk that is hardly designed to inspire confidence.

The latest Nato probes have only confirmed past estimates of East bloc troop strength. The only unit that can seriously close the gap is a division of the Polish marine corps which Warsaw Pact estimates deem a naval unit.

But what about the remaining 167,000 or so men? East bloc delegates in Vienna reckon they are just figments of Western intelligence and staff officer imaginations, but this can hardly be considered a satisfactory answer in the West's point of view.

Nato is not prepared to believe it could be even ten per cent wide of the mark. Since 1973 the margin of error in assessing troop strength has been cut to less than five per cent, Nato sources claim. In other words, Nato brass feel they might be up to 50,000 men wrong in a million, but no more.

This is not just juggling with figures. What point is there in cutting Bundeswehr manpower under arms by 45,000 when an additional 150,000 to 170,000 men in the East bloc are argued away as domestic security forces, border guards and the like?

Lothar Ruehl

(Die Zeit, 6 May 1977)

Progress only on economic front with East bloc

Ostpolitik and economic ties between this country and the East bloc was the subject of a recent congress in Bonn held by the Eastern European Studies Association.

In the political sector relations have chilled perceptibly of late, the experts noted. East bloc attempts to make further inroads into the Four-Power status of Berlin, the imposition of a road toll on Western visitors to East Berlin and the expulsion from the GDR of Lothar Loewe, Federal Republic TV correspondent in East Berlin, are all regarded as symptomatic of the current trend.

Other East bloc countries are also keeping their distance from Bonn. Mr Brezhnev's forthcoming visit to Bonn now seems an altogether more distant prospect.

Czech leader Gustav Husak's long-overdue visit to this country has, it appears, been postponed, and the Rumanians have intimated that they are no longer prepared to ignore on occasion the Soviet claim that West Berlin is a third German political entity.

In recent months the Soviet Union has evidently brought pressure to bear on its satellites to toe the line.

The Kremlin in particular takes great pains to blame this country for the deterioration in relations. Bonn of course, especially Foreign Minister Genscher, has endeavoured hard to clarify this country's views on Ostpolitik in general and Berlin in particular.

Growing Western interest in civil rights movements within the East bloc has undoubtedly played a leading role in the deterioration of East-West ties, although Bonn has played its cards close to the chest on this topic.

It was further noted at the Bonn conference that the repatriation of German nationals from the Soviet Union has proceeded at a snail's pace. Last year only 9,000 people were granted exit permits to start a new life in the Federal Republic.

Regular reports of demonstrations by German nationals in the Soviet Union or of harassment of ethnic Germans in Rumania who have applied to migrate to this country indicate how unsatisfactory the situation remains despite the Helsinki accords.

It was conceded, however, that economic ties between the Federal Republic and most East bloc countries made encouraging progress last year despite the overall recession.

East bloc countries are clearly keen to step up exports to this country in order gradually to reduce their trading deficits with Bonn.

Where most East bloc countries are concerned the Federal Republic remains their major trading partner in the West. The East bloc is currently in debt to this country to the tune of roughly 11,000 million deutschmarks, or 26 per cent more than in 1975.

Experts feel there is no reason why the Soviet Union should not be allowed to run up a substantial trade deficit. Russia has sufficient foreign exchange and commodity reserves to repay its debts over the years to come.

This is not the case where many other East bloc countries are concerned. They are only able to repay existing loans by exporting finished and semi-finished goods and unlikely to be able to step up their exports to the West to any great extent.

Ernst von Eicke

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 3 May 1977)

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PEOPLE

Ludwig Erhard, father of the 'economic miracle', dies at 80



It would be impossible to write a history of post-war Germany without mentioning Ludwig Erhard who died in Bonn, aged 80, in the night from 4 to 5 May.

Long before Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, assumed office, Ludwig Erhard had already charted the course that was to lead this country to unprecedented prosperity — a prosperity that was set in train by the 1948 currency reform which he masterminded.

It is a quirk and an irony of this man's political career that he who had done away with the paralysing planned economy by a stroke of his pen and against the advice of experts and the wishes of the victors of World War II should have foundered as a Chancellor on the economic crisis of 1966.

The stout, cigar-smoking politician who exuded so much optimism was brought to fall by the misconception that a courageous economic policy-maker must of necessity also be a good head of government and that a successful professor of economics must automatically also be in a position to reconcile opposing political interests and to lead a country with a firm hand.

Konrad Adenauer, whose unwavering ties with the West and Nato would never have been possible without the economic success of his Minister of Economic Affairs, cannot be blamed for the failure as a Chancellor of the father of the *Wirtschaftswunder* since Adenauer never wanted him to become his successor.

On the contrary, Adenauer did everything in his power to bar Erhard from the Chancellery.

He spared his faithful follower no humiliation whatsoever and sat with a stony face in the Bundestag when Erhard, under pressure from his party friends, announced his resignation as Chancellor. It was Erhard's tragedy that he never quite managed to step out of Adenauer's shadow.

Ludwig Erhard owes the fact that he became the father of the German *Wirtschaftswunder* to a mistake on the part of his predecessor — and that had nothing to do with Adenauer.

The Administration of the so-called bizone (the combined American and British Occupation zones) was the precursor of the Federal Republic of Germany. It operated under the jurisdiction of the Military Government and the German quasi-ministers called themselves "Directors".

The "Director of Economic Administration of the United Economic Area", residing in Frankfurt, was at the beginning of 1948 Johannes Semler. Outraged over the fact that the Americans provided only maize as a bread-making material for the starving Germans, he protested at the end of January 1948 — in his famous "chickenfeed" speech — against such a treatment of the vanquished. A speech which made him persona non grata with the Americans and cost him his office.

Proposed by the Free Democrats, Ludwig Erhard was elected Semler's successor on 2 March 1948. In his very first speech in this capacity, Erhard announced that he wanted to do away with the controlled economy even before monetary reform because he did not believe in "total control".

Ludwig Erhard's great moment came on 20 June 1948 when the victors declared the worthless Reichsmark no longer legal tender.

This currency reform was tantamount to a dispossession of the nation's savers while favouring owners of material goods, who promptly put their hitherto withheld wares on the market following Ludwig Erhard's laconic announcement over radio in which he said: "As of today the only ration ticket is the deutschmark."

General Lucius D. Clay, the virtually omnipotent head of the US Military Government, did not just accept this insubordination on the part of the "Director for the Economy", but demanded obedience because it was not in the purview of the German Administration to change the Military Government's rationing regulations without authority.

Erhard replied: "I haven't changed the regulations; I declared them null and void."

Both the Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats vied for this valiant man. In February 1949, Erhard met the largely still unknown Konrad Adenauer who persuaded him to join the CDU and obtained his undertaking to accept the post of Minister of Economic Affairs in his Government once the Federal Republic of Germany was founded.

After the CDU/CSU had won the absolute majority in the third Bundestag election in 1957, Erhard succeeded Franz Blücher (FDP) as Deputy Chancellor.

Supported by the nation's growing affluence, he passionately defended his concept of *soziale Marktwirtschaft* (a term which can best be translated as "market economy with a social conscience").

Although he served as Minister of Economic Affairs in all Adenauer Cabinets, the Chancellor's reservations concerning the political abilities of the professor of economics became more and more evident.

These reservations culminated in Adenauer's rejection of Erhard's nomination for the office of Federal President and his own candidacy for that office — although he dropped this idea when the CDU nominated Erhard rather than Franz Etzel for the Chancellorship in 1959.

Even when the then FPD chairman Erich Mende, following his spectacular election success of 1961 (when the FDP captured 12.8 per cent of the popular vote), refused to become a member of an Adenauer Cabinet, the "old man" still refused to vacate his chair in favour of Ludwig Erhard.

It was not until 16 October 1963 that Erhard succeeded Adenauer. But he was unable to hold on to the legacy because too many hopes and expectations were pinned on him (not to speak of dangerous foreign policy setbacks); because he proved unable to stop inflation; because even his close party affiliates had grown tired of his appeals calling for a tightening of belts and because they failed to understand and go along with his philosophy of a "formed society".

The end of the Erhard era came with the resignation of the FDP Ministers at the end of October 1966. The FDP refused to countenance the balancing of the following year's Federal Budget by means of tax increases.



Ludwig Erhard
(Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

The CDU/CSU then dropped Erhard and elected the Baden-Württemberg Premier Kurt Georg Kiesinger who formed the Grand Coalition with Willy Brandt on 1 December 1966, thus for the first time bringing the Social Democrats into Government.

Although Erhard's fame receded rapidly, his advice was much sought even in his last years, and he spoke up whenever he saw that his economic concept was in jeopardy.

As senior member of the 8th Bundestag, he admonished the MPs during the opening session of 14 December 1976 to resist the threats and lures of those powers "which are the enemies of our Constitution" and to contribute towards peace within and without.

Eghard Mörbitz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 May 1977)

Hans Katzer to quit as chairman of top CDU group

Only a year ago, Hans Katzer, 58, drew attention to one of the inalienable and fundamental tenets of the Social Affairs Committees of Christian Democratic Employees (CDA) by saying "Man is more important than the cause" — a quotation from the so-called Offenburg Statement of 1967.

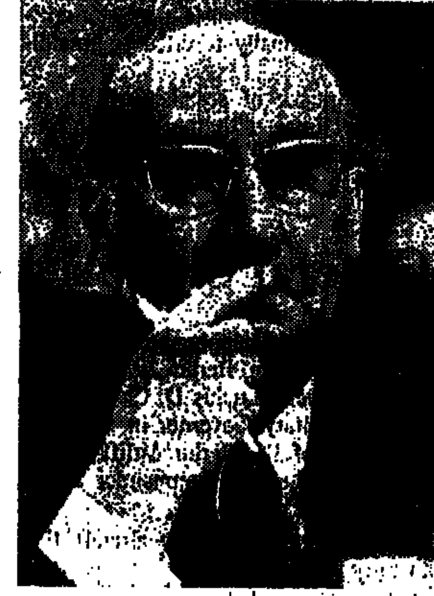
Herr Katzer, CDU Deputy Floor Leader, has been chairman of the CDA since 1963 and not until now has he had a serious competitor.

This man is Norbert Blüm, for many years chief administrator of the Social Affairs Committees. Blüm is now making a bid for the chairmanship of the committees and Herr Katzer has made a painful discovery which, as a rule, politicians make before other mortals do: the cause is more important than Man after all, and the organisation's needs outweigh consideration even for its chairman.

After 14 years of impeccable work, time has run out for chairman Katzer. At the forthcoming election of the Executive Committee in early June he will no longer stand for election.

Only a few months ago, on 12 February, the National Executive Committee asked the CDU's Deputy Floor Leader to stand for re-election. Shortly thereafter, Katzer fell ill with a virus infection which doctors were unable to diagnose accurately.

They advised their patient, who still suffered from a lung injury sustained in World War II, to unburden himself of some of his many strenuous functions.



Hans Katzer
(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

And this is what Hans Katzer gave as the reason for relinquishing the chairmanship.

After another hospital treatment and a convalescent period until this summer, he wants to continue his function as Deputy Floor Leader with the same energy as before.

There can be no denying the meritorious social affairs work of this slightly built man. As a proponent of Ludwig Erhard's market economy and a dedicated adherent of Catholic sociology, he played a major role in bringing about the "312-mark Law" (legislation intended to promote saving), the so-called People's Stock and other major social legislation.

During his second term in office as Labour Minister (under Kiesinger) he tenaciously opposed all attempts at tampering with progressive old age pensions. He was also co-responsible for continued wage payments to sick workers, although he was defeated in his far-reaching demands for workers' co-determination in industry. There, his party refused to go along with him.

Katzer's stepping down from his post as chairman of the CDA is not free of bitterness. Without mentioning his young friend of former days and challenger of today — Blüm — by name he nevertheless in a letter chides the Executive Committee of this organisation for taking the discussion on personnel problems to the market place instead of discussing the matter in committees.

According to the inner circle around Katzer, Blüm was not quite innocent in this matter. Katzer friends maintain that Blüm used the former's illness to promote his own image.

The change of guard is obviously not a painless business in the CDU, and competitors have been known to kick each other on the shins in the process.

Günter Geschke

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 8 May 1977)

■ WEST BERLIN

Klaus Schütz resigns after 10 years as Mayor

After close on ten years in office, West Berlin's Governing Mayor Klaus Schütz has resigned. His successor is Dietrich Stobbe, 39, hitherto West Berlin's Senator for Federal Affairs.

It remains to be seen whether Dietrich Stobbe, West Berlin's new Governing Mayor, will succeed in getting a grip on the situation.

After all, the crisis surrounding Klaus Schütz, is not only a crisis concerning an individual, but one concerning the whole Berlin SPD which has been with us for years.

It reached its climax when Schütz had to hand in his resignation, after the State Minister of the Interior Kurt Neubauer had to step down over a money affair.

When Klaus Schütz, at that time State Secretary in Willy Brandt's Foreign Ministry, succeeded Heinrich Albertz in 1967 he was confronted with a city wracked by student unrest and an SPD split into right, middle and left wings — and disintegrating.

Klaus Schütz, who subsequently became the Berlin chairman of the SPD, eventually managed to bring about a truce between left and right within the Party under the slogan "concentration of forces". But the truce became brittle as the right wing realised that its holdings still only served to strengthen the left.

Moreover, Schütz never managed to remove the label "Civil-Servants' Party" from Berlin's SPD. Nepotism and sycophantism became more and more rampant.

And then, in the spring of 1975, came the rude awakening. As opposed to previous elections, the SPD no longer managed to get an absolute majority.

Only by reluctantly entering into a coalition with the FDP were the Social Democrats able to retain their cushy Government seats instead of exchanging them for the hard benches of the Opposition.

At that time they promised that they would purge themselves, but the party leadership failed to sustain its self-criticism and eventually reverted to muddling along.

The sequence of scandals, which reached its climax with the *Kreisel-Complex* affair and the attendant resignation of Finance Senator Striek, continued with the *KPM* affair that led to the resignation of Senator Liehr.

And then came the jailbreak of four women anarchists which induced Senator of Justice Oxfort to hand in his portfolio. SPD spokesman Burger was arrested on suspicion of espionage.

In connection with the *KPM* affair, the Public Prosecutor's Office announced that it might have to institute proceedings against the Governing Mayor. And on 19 April, SPD Floor Leader Haus, frequently referred to as Mr Clean, also had to give up his portfolio. There were not many areas in which Schütz and his Senate could point to successes. Contrary to their pledges, they had failed to turn Berlin into the "model of a modern metropolis", an air junction and an "East-West Exchange".

Instead, the number of industrial jobs diminished by about one-third within five years, and major West German companies reduced their investments in Berlin. New industries have failed to settle in the city, and losses through businesses leaving the city can no longer be offset.

Schütz was obviously aware of this development, but he did nothing to stop it. It is contrary to his nature to tell others what to do, and so far as the many affairs are concerned, he was certainly not personally involved in the bid for offices and sinecures.

But he also did little to put an end to this game for this would have been out of keeping with the standard of a political scientist whose ambitions essentially still lie in the field of foreign affairs.

Schütz' weakness as a leader became more and more obvious. And in the past few months he only occupied his place in the Rathaus because there was no successor in sight who would have been acceptable to the Berlin SPD.

Neither Ristock nor Riepschläger could expect to get the necessary majority. And even Senator Stobbe seemed much too young to become the successor of Ernst Reuter... and the Berlin SPD resents "imports from Bonn".

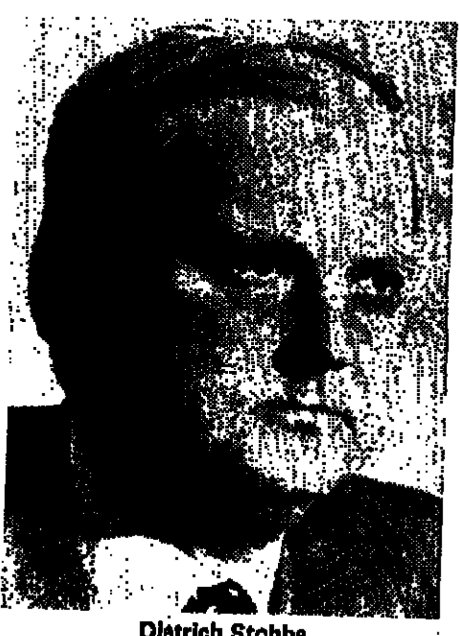
Berlin's Governing Mayor must devote as much time to administrative problems as to major politics. Schütz' exclusive interest in the latter proved his undoing.

His successor, Dietrich Stobbe, does not exactly have much administrative experience either — nor did he need to as Senator for Federal Affairs.

It can only be hoped, in the interests of Berlin, that he will now occupy himself with such matters lest the city tumble from the frying pan into the fire.

Liselotte Müller

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 30 April 1977)



Dietrich Stobbe (Photo: dpa)

High hopes for Dietrich Stobbe, the new Mayor

Dietrich Stobbe, 39, has never made any bones about the fact that he had the ambition of one day becoming the Governing Mayor of Berlin.

This desire was not discernible in the first years of his political career. In 1963 he became the press officer of the then Berlin Senator for Youth and Sport, Kurt Neubauer.

Dietrich Stobbe considers the time after 1967, when he was the administrator of the SPD Parliamentary Party in the Berlin House of Deputies, as his apprenticeship, when he had an opportunity to gather experience — primarily in the field of economic affairs and university administration.

Despite his youth, Stobbe earned himself a fine reputation. He was considered a man of the centre right wing of the SPD and has always been renowned for his fair play, intelligence and organisational ability.

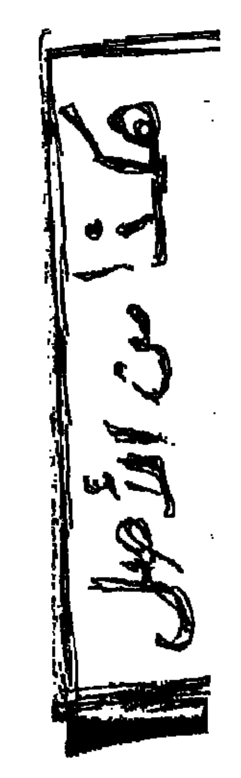
He managed to keep out of all internal party disputes which made it relatively easy for Klaus Schütz to appoint him Senator for Federal Affairs and send him to Bonn in January 1973. This was a post that required a pronounced ability to mediate and thus suited Stobbe splendidly.

Dietrich Stobbe, an East Prussian by birth, has used his time in Bonn to gather experience in the field of *Deutschlandpolitik* and *Ostpolitik*.

A speech which he made in November 1976 before a conference of district delegates in Berlin-Charlottenburg and in which he advocated a pragmatic Berlin policy without hair-splitting found nation-wide recognition.

Stobbe is not only one of the few genuine talents on West Berlin's political scene; in view of the narrow majorities in the West Berlin House of Deputies, he is probably also the only man who has a chance of scraping together an absolute majority for the coalition — especially in view of the fact that he is on excellent terms with Wolfgang Lüder, the Chairman of West Berlin's FDP.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 April 1977)



Klaus Schütz (Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

A man who was willing to speak his mind

The time has come for West Berlin's Governing Mayor Klaus Schütz to take his leave.

His party recalled him when crisis situations became the order of the day in his Senate. Berlin was inundated with political scandals, affairs and incidents — a flood tide which, having carried away Kurt Neubauer, has now also claimed Klaus Schütz.

He governed Berlin longer than any other post-war Mayor — and that means longer than Ernst Reuter and Willy Brandt.

Although born in Heidelberg, Schütz is a Berliner, for he has lived in that city since the age of ten.

Herr Schütz came into the political limelight as a disciple of Willy Brandt, who was instrumental in his career. And it was Brandt who, in an equally critical situation, prevailed upon Schütz to succeed Heinrich Albertz as Governing Mayor of West Berlin in 1967.

It does not make Schütz' departure any easier to have the SPD's Federal Administrator, Egon Bahr, play a major role in it. Bahr and Schütz have never seen eye to eye and are reputed to be like cat and dog.

Both of them have always been close to Willy Brandt and have always vied with each other.

Schütz, who failed to keep a tight rein on the "Party of Civil Servants", as Berlin's SPD has been dubbed, was not a Mayor who made no mistakes, but his term of office was always marked by personal honesty.

He was a passionate proponent of *Ostpolitik* and never hesitated to level public accusations at the East bloc for its constant treaty violations, although the Bonn party brass always tried to prevail upon him to exercise more restraint.

In his Berlin home Schütz will now find plenty of time to devote to his favourite occupation, namely, the reading of political literature.

He will also have plenty of time to ponder the question whether it is too late to embark on a new political career. In any event, the fifty-year old hardly gives the impression of a man who has nothing left to dream about but his pension.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 30 April 1977)

General Clay, Airlift creator, turns 80

The following telephone conversation took place in Berlin 29 years ago between General Lucius D. Clay, at that time US Military Governor in Germany and creator of the Berlin Airlift (1948), and General LeMay, Commander of the US Air Force:

Clay: Do you have any aircraft that can carry coal?

LeMay: Carry what?

Clay: Coal.

LeMay: The line's bad... I keep hearing you asking about aircraft to transport coal.

Clay: Exactly! That's what I said... coal.

LeMay: The Air Force can transport anything!

The man who was responsible for this historic telephone conversation and thus saved Berlin, Lucius D. Clay, turned 80 on 1 May.

Lucius D. Clay is today an executive with a canning company in New York. Says he: "I never worked as hard as that time in Berlin. But we made it. And perhaps the Airlift speeded up Germany's joining the Western camp."

The octogenarian then went on to say: "I never had any real friends in Germany." But there he is wrong. When, following the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, John F. Kennedy made him his personal envoy to Berlin, General Clay was given a rousing welcome in that city.

For the Berliners, Clay has always been a friend and as a token of their gratitude they made him an honorary citizen and named a street in one of the best parts of the city after him: Clay-Allee.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 23 April 1977)

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Bonn plan to number each citizen is dropped

Big Brother has suffered a defeat, and George Orwell's omniscient electronic state as depicted in *1984* has been shelved for the time being.

The Conference of Ministers of the Interior (State and Federal) has decided to drop the project of an identification number for all citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The project, which would have turned our citizens into "transparent people of glass", has thus been put on ice for a number of years, according to the Northrhine-Westphalian Ministry of the Interior. Other observers even go so far as to believe that the "citizen's identity number" has been abolished for ever.

Two years ago, when the computer euphoria was rampant among officialdom at all levels (Federal, state and municipal), the Bonn Ministry of the Interior presented a draft for a new Federal Registration Law which, as the dot on the i, so to speak, contained the citizen's identity number.

According to this draft, every citizen was to be allocated a 12-digit number under which he would be registered in all official data banks.

Even privately owned data banks immediately declared their willingness to switch over to the new numbering system. The first six digits of the identity number were to have given the date of birth, the seventh digit, the century of birth, and digits eight to eleven were intended as an individual number by which to differentiate people born on the same date. Twelve was intended as an additonal test number.

Experts were jubilant, maintaining that people with run-of-the-mill names would no longer be mistaken for each other under the new system.

This, they believed, would save the citizen a lot of running around from pillar to post of officialdom; and when moving from place to another he would no longer have to fill out one form to register himself out of one domicile and another to register himself into the new one.

It would have sufficed to file one form only, and the computer would have taken care of the rest, passing the relevant new data on to the Federal Insurance Office, the Health Authority, the Federal Labour Exchange and the traffic authorities.

But the initial euphoria was followed by an awakening that culminated in the warning of the CDU data safeguard expert and former Bundestag Member Johannes Gerster.

Speaking in Parliament, Herr Gerster said: "This citizen's identity number can lead to the electronic concentration of all data from all authorities in a single data bank.

"The citizen would become glasslike and transparent to any state authority which would know too much about him and would thus indirectly induce him to adapt his behaviour accordingly."

Now already some 22,000 computers in government offices, private companies and associations contain some 20,000 million data about citizens of the Federal Republic — an average of 300 per person.

So why all the fuss about the citizen's identity number? Every data bank uses a different number for each citizen today.

Fritz Müller might have the number 325987 with the tour operator X and the number 932345 with the State Security Office.

As a result, such data are not centralised and it is impossible to switch over from one computer to another.

The amassing of information in various data banks is already explosive enough. But any government office wanting to obtain information about a citizen today must write to other government departments specifically asking for computerised data.

This procedure is permissible even after the passing last November of the new data safeguard legislation. Government authorities are specifically authorised to collect and transfer all data which they require in fulfilling their function.

But under today's system this procedure requires a great deal of work and every request for data is on file and can therefore be controlled.

Every government office knows to whom it has passed on information about citizens. But if the identity number were to be introduced, such data would be available to every computer under the same number.

It would therefore suffice to feed the number into one computer in order to induce all data banks to spew out the information stored in them.

Such a computer portrait of a citizen would be virtually complete. It would contain his marital status, divorces, illegitimate children, change of address, venereal diseases, inoculations, occupational abilities, work references, employment, income, tax debts, criminal records, ownership of real estate and automobiles and political affiliations.

While — last year still — the Federal States unanimously demanded that the identity numbers be introduced, the CDU in the Bundestag called for a ban on the basis of the data safeguard legislation.

And the Legal Committee of the Bundestag expressed constitutional reservations, arguing that the numbering of citizens was a violation of human dignity and that it entailed the danger of abuse.

As a result, the draft for a new Federal Registration Law was put on ice.

At the latest conference of the Ministers of the Interior the states once more demanded of the Federal Minister of the Interior that he at last present a uniform Registration Law with identity-number.

The Northrhine-Westphalian Minister of the Interior Hirsch passionately opposed the introduction of Big Brother, saying that this topic could only be raised again once data safeguards on both state and Federal level had been improved considerably.

At present, he pointed out, only Hesse and the Rhineland-Palatinate have data safeguard legislation. The Conference of the Ministers of the Interior subsequently dropped its demands for the identity number.

Following the foundering of the the plan for the citizen's identity number, we are faced with a legally dubious situation. Anticipating Federal legislation to that effect, all states began numbering their citizens.

As a result some 46 million of 62 million citizens have already been numbered at a cost of DM18 million.

The Federal numbering procedure has meanwhile been stopped everywhere although the states already have their data banks in which citizens are numbered according to state procedure.

According to some legal experts, the constitutional reservations concerning the Federal citizen's identity number must also apply to all other such numbering systems. Other experts disagree, pointing out that state numbers cannot be objected to, because they apply only to citizen's registration and are not linked with other authorities of the state, let alone across state borders.

Horst Zimmermann

(Der Tagesspiegel, 30 April 1977)

First arrests in killing of Siegfried Buback

Günter Sonnenberg, 22, and Verena Becker, 24, were taken into custody after an exchange of gunfire with the police in Singen, near the Swiss border, on 3 May. Sonnenberg is one of the men wanted by police in connection with the murder of Siegfried Buback, federal director of public prosecutions.

After an unsuccessful three weeks search for the assassins of Chief Federal Prosecutor Siegfried Buback and two other officials, the police and the Internal Security Office were more or less up a blind alley.

It seemed as if (like after the assassination of the Berlin judge von Drenkmann and the Lorenz kidnapping) the search would extend over many months. But the first success came unexpectedly soon.

Even this arrest in itself provides important insights into the links of the various terrorist groups in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Sonnenberg, for instance, was not listed as a potential terrorist until after the arrest of the former Baader-Meinhof defence counsellor Siegfried Haag last November.

Verena Becker, a member of the *Movement 2nd of June* which was responsible for the Lorenz kidnapping and the Drenkmann assassination, had already been convicted for her part in the February 1972 bomb attack on the British Yacht Club in Berlin. She was exchanged for the kidnapped Berlin politician Peter Lorenz in March 1975.

The link between veteran terrorists and terrorism's young blood is closer than hitherto expected.

(Die Zeit, 6 May 1977)

Luck and method helped

Although the arrest of Günter Sonnenberg and Verena Becker is essentially a police matter, it nevertheless could have considerable political consequences.

Since the police succeeded in apprehending at least one of the suspected murderers of Chief Federal Prosecutor Siegfried Buback some of the latent apprehension that high-ranking representatives of the state could be shot dead with impunity has been dispelled.

This could help relieve some of the pressure on our law-makers to engage in dubious manipulations of the law only in order to counter the impression of the state's helplessness.

Even though the dramatic arrest of the two terrorists is an unqualified success, there is nevertheless no reason to feel relieved. The events in Singen clearly demonstrate that there is no such thing as a fool-proof method in combating this type of crime. But it would be equally fallacious to attribute the Singen success purely to chance.

In actual fact, criminals of this kind can only be nabbed by spreading a fine-mesh net as widely as possible in order to profit from "chance" mistakes of the criminals and from information received from the public.

In Singen, two — and subsequently even more — policemen risked their lives. But, even this daring and somewhat thoughtless dedication on the part of the police would have remained unavailing had the terrorists not stupidly managed to get themselves into a cul-de-sac.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 May 1977)

Bribery allegations after payments to citizens' protest group

Allegations of bribery and corruption over a proposed power station in the Ruhr hit the headlines recently when an Essen power company agreed to pay one and a half million deutschmarks in compensation to 72 members of a protest group in return for their silence about plans to build a major coal-fired power station in Bergkamen, near Dortmund.

The money-grabbers of Bergkamen were outraged, saying that all they wanted was "their" money. In fact — if they are to be believed, that is — they are not a citizens' initiative at all because, as one of them put it: "We bore the risk of a court case, and we have by no means sold out our convictions."

So they say... as if all that were involved were simply an out-of-court settlement between Steag and those who have suffered potential damage through pollution by the power plant.

But this was not how our valiant fighters started off. On the contrary; they called themselves clearly and unmistakably "Initiative Against the Construction of the Planned Coal Power Station".

Anyone who calls himself "Initiative" must put up with being considered exactly that... and anyone who demonstrates "against the construction of the planned coal power station" in no way makes it known that he does not object to the construction of the plant provided the money is the right colour.

The most likely explanation is that some of the experienced old foxes felt that the cheque could turn out to be smaller if they only put out their hands for the money instead of marching under the banner of idealism.

Something stinks in Bergkamen... it is not the stench of pollution from the power plant, but emanates from those who cleaned up.

The city itself plays a somewhat mysterious role in the whole affair, having collected 600,000 "Steag-marks" for so-called infrastructure measures.

How come? If the power station was intolerably dirty the city could easily enough have demanded the necessary filtration installations instead of baksheesh for kindergartens... or do other cities do the same?

Has it become a matter of principle now to milk the companies which provide energy and jobs and to malign them as givers of bribes to boot? The whole thing cries out for an investigation.

(Die Welt, 6 May 1977)

■ ECONOMICS

Growth certain in 1977, but forecasters differ over extent

It is an indication of uncertainty on the part of forecasters when, of five economic research institutes, two (Ifo and RWI) estimate the real growth in the GNP for 1977 at 3 to 4 instead of 4.5 per cent. In absolute terms, this represents, after all, a difference in growth of some DM18,000 million or more than DM800 per working citizen.

Our economic pundits are certain that the economy of the Federal Republic of Germany is still in an "upward phase" and that we have not passed the turning point to a new recession.

But in all other respects the forecast for 1977 is more a matter of temperament than of knowledge. Thus some forecasters (the more optimistic ones) speak of 4.5 per cent while the pessimists opt for 3.5 per cent. But neither of these figures can be substantiated.

The reasons for this uncertainty are obvious and are carefully listed in the "spring forecast" as an explanation for any critics.

- It is significant for the present upswing that brief periods of rapid growth followed periods of slow development and vice versa.
- These uncertainties are now further aggravated by the imponderable elements of statistics. The monthly reports of the Federal Statistical Office concerning incoming orders, the development of the labour market and production are being restructured. As a result, no economist knows at the moment to which extent the drop in incoming orders at the beginning of the year reflects the state of the economy or is due to statistical vagaries.
- The figures of the joint diagnosis by the five institutes are based on overall calculations provided by the Statistical Office.

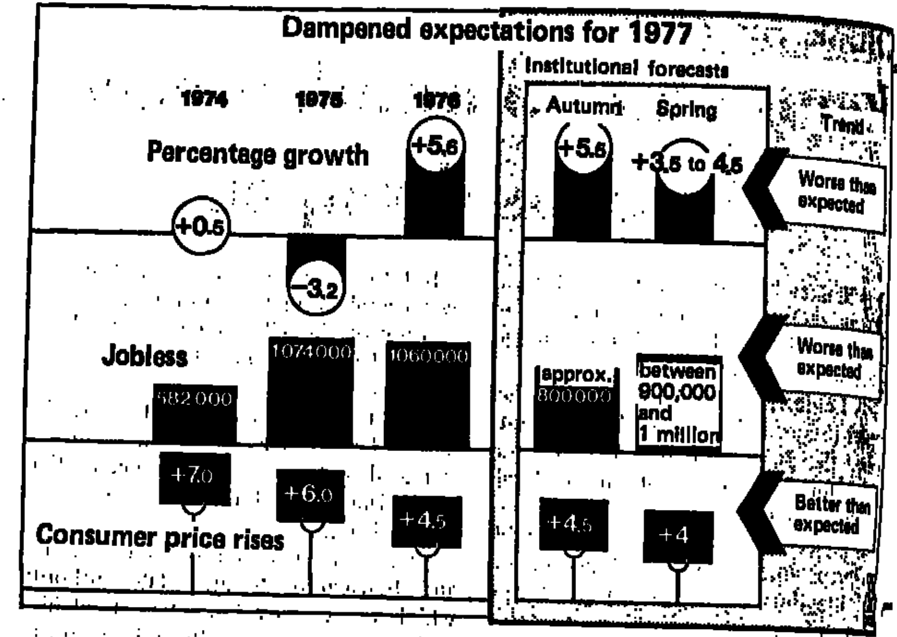
But these are to be fundamentally revised in the immediate future. As a result, not only the level and the structure, but also past trends in the economy will present themselves differently. The change can therefore alter all forecasts based on comparisons with the previous year.

In view of all this, it would seem pointless to try to guess who assessed the economic development for 1977 correctly in the spring report — Ifo and RWI or the other three.

For actual economic policy-makers it is more important that all research institutes are agreed on the prerequisite of an upswing and of full employment. Their recommendations are conspicuously and impressively similar to the Bundesbank analysis of the causes of unemployment.

Much to the disenchantment of the trade unions, the Bundesbank declared that unemployment was, above all, consequence of aggressive wage policies in the past.

The research institutes have now, in keeping with the Bundesbank thesis, developed the following formula for what they consider a correct wage policy: "In a situation such as the present, the increase of wages in real terms should be less than the domestically available increase in productivity in order that profits and hence investments may rise, thus helping to reduce unemployment."



According to the institutes, productivity will increase by 4 per cent in 1977 and consumer prices will rise by the same figure. 1977 wage deals should be clearly below the 8 per cent mark if the unemployment problem is to be ameliorated.

Research institutes, Bundesbank and Federal Government agree with this concept in their annual economic reports. The trade unions must find it harder and harder to exculpate themselves in the face of such generally held views which are the more convincing because they come from neutral quarters.

The Federal Government, too, will read the spring report with mixed feelings. The institutes are pretty outspoken in their criticism of the Government's tax package which includes an increase of VAT by two per cent (DM12,000 million per annum) and tax reductions (for business as well) of DM6,000 million.

According to the institutes, the increase of VAT should be abolished altogether; but tax relief should be granted even if this means a slower reduction of the deficit.

Says the report: "What we need in a growth policy are more tax incentives for stepped up investment. Reduced tax progression is worth considering in this context, as are better depreciation terms."

In order to reduce the state deficit nevertheless, the institutes suggest that state subsidies for savings be restricted — a measure which can certainly not be termed unsound economically.

But such recommendations show that the research institutes are somewhat too detached from the economic scene. After all, reduced savings incentives — in other words, subsidies for the man-in-the-street — in order to promote business profits might be the correct measure theoretically — but is it politically feasible?

Hans Mundorf

(Handelsblatt, 29 April 1977)

Major targets achieved, says Bundesbank report

In its just presented business report for 1976, the Deutsche Bundesbank (this country's Central Bank) gave itself and the government's economic policy good marks.

According to the report, the money supply objective of curbing inflation still further while at the same time promoting economic recovery has been achieved to a large extent — and in two areas it has even been exceeded.

For one thing, inflation dropped below the 4 per cent mark at the end of 1976 and, for another, the real growth in the GNP reached 5.5 per cent, thus exceeding expectations. But the report also points to the trouble spots, above all to the situation on the labour market which is anything but rosy.

According to the Bundesbank, lasting successes in combating unemployment can probably only be achieved with a combination of specific labour policy measures and a strong economic growth as well as further progress in combating inflation.

As a result, stabilisation must not only relate to prices, but also to production costs and the long-term expectations of business — above all with regard to the future tax burden it might have to bear. "The cost-yield relation must lastingly be stabilised at a satisfactory level", says the Bundesbank report.

By choosing a money supply target for 1977 which will restrict price increases while at the same time leaving enough scope for a healthy growth, the Bundesbank has clearly indicated in which manner it wants to contribute towards solving existing problems in 1977 as well.

According to the Bundesbank report business continued to be cautious with regard to new employment in 1976.

Its initial objective was to provide full-time work for those on short shifts. As a result, the number of short shift workers (annual average) dropped from 770,000 in 1975 to 280,000 in 1976.

All in all, the reduction of unemployment proceeded only slowly. In fact, structural difficulties which dampened the demand for labour in individual branches of industry and in specific regions became only more pronounced during the period under review.

While a shortage of skilled workers became increasingly obvious, unemployment among the less qualified and among certain white collar workers remained relatively high.

Particularly significant, the report goes on to say, was the fact that continued anti-inflationary policies proved compatible with economic growth. The recovery was slow, but sustained and no-one expected an actual boom.

In fact, the Bundesbank complains that business in many instances underestimated the economic impulses at work. Overall production clearly exceeded pre-recession levels by the end of 1976.

But the construction industry was unable to keep pace with overall growth. The report points out that diminished demand for construction is by no means cyclical and that it is unlikely that this branch of industry will regain its former importance for the economy as a whole.

Its share of the GNP dropped from 7.5 to 6 per cent during 1976. The wholesale and retail trades' share in the GNP also increased more slowly than that of industry.

As opposed to previous recovery phases, the motive power of recovery was private domestic demand. Business and private individuals increased investment and consumption expenditures by DM81,000 million in 1976.

This corresponds to close to 90 per cent of the total nominal growth of the GNP. The improved investment climate has been enhanced — apart from the investment subsidies — by better business profits following the losses of the previous years. Another important element was demand by private households.

Foreign demand in general proved an important pillar of the domestic economy. But the Bundesbank points out that demand impulses from abroad — no matter how strong — were matched by the impluses provided to foreign countries by increased imports.

Trade surplus diminished once more considerably by DM7,500 million and amounted to only 0.7 per cent of the GNP.

The Bundesbank stresses that "the Federal Republic of Germany came very close to a foreign trade balance and that it has thus supported efforts to reduce inequilibrium in the foreign trade balances of other countries."

The year 1976 was not free of foreign trade disturbances. The Federal Republic of Germany was on two occasions subjected to a heavy foreign exchange influx which made it difficult at times to sufficiently limit the money supply.

It is at least partly due to these facts that the money supply target for last year was somewhat exceeded.

The Bundesbank report makes it clear that the central bank considers the correction of distribution of incomes relations last year as a basis for a lasting upswing still inadequate.

But the year under review has brought a clear improvement in business incomes which rose by 14 per cent. For the first time since 1968 these incomes exceeded the increase in the incomes of wage and salary earners, which amounted to 7.5 per cent.

The Bundesbank reiterates in its report that the first wage deals of 1977 were at odds with the general economic situation. This, the report says, gives rise to fears that wage costs will rise again this year.

Wage deals concluded so far in 1977 indicate that the average annual wages and salaries will rise more rapidly than in 1976 and that they will thus increase the share of wages in production costs.

Collective bargaining deals of this nature seem to ignore the fact that the cost of living increases in 1976 were considerable lower than originally anticipated.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 April 1977)

■ SHIPPING

Plight of German shipyards worsens as order books get thinner

Everybody knows that the Japanese can build as good a ship as the Germans. But now the same applies to the shipyards of Singapore and Korea.

Says Conrad von Sydow, chairman of a Hamburg-based ships' mortgage bank: "After all, there isn't much to it to rivet a ship together."

The whole thing is a pretty nerve-wracking business for shipbuilders in the Federal Republic of Germany. They are weathering a storm which is growing rather than diminishing.

Since shipyards throughout the world will at best be able to utilise half of their ir production capacities as of next year, it is obvious that they will fight for every order.

Moreover, since the competitors in Japan, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan are about 30 to 35 per cent cheaper, and since more and more shipowners are unable to resist this lure, German shipyards are the losers in the struggle for orders.

Only two years ago, Minister of Economic Affairs Hans Friderichs stated perfectly correctly that our shipyards in Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony and Bremen had full order books, but he concluded wrongly that "they are in a position to provide secure jobs."

Conditions which are today causing us our employment headaches were already in full swing in 1975. The tanker boom was followed by an unequalled depression on that market, resulting from the oil crisis.

"These tankers, which now nobody wants, at one time amounted to three-quarters of the tonnage on order. And no one expects the shipping industry to get out of the doldrums before 1981. At present we have 250 super tankers too many.

As a result of their having specialised in the construction of mammoth tankers, the Japanese were hardest hit by the end of the boom in that business. But they were quick in adapting to the construction of other types of vessels and were thus able to consolidate their position on a shrinking world market.

During the past three years they produced close to half of the global tonnage and — as a result of their agressive price policy — they captured 60 per cent of global new orders.

For the Germans (1976 turnover about 6,600 million deutschmarks) there remained less and less of the cake. They will hardly be in a position to retain their third place in the 1976 list of shipbuilders (after Japan and Sweden), since this country already takes eighth place in terms of present orders — ranging behind countries like France, Spain and Brazil.

The trickle of orders has dried out virtually completely since January. And yet local shipowners are showing a great deal of interest in new ships — but in the Far East rather than at home. As one shipyard manager put it: "We have to put up with being ridiculed about our prices."

The final shock came in March when a group of Hamburg shipowners centering around Klaus Oldendorff ordered ten container ships at once — of which three as an option — in Singapore. The order was worth DM120 million.

There can be no doubt that this sensitive branch of industry is suffering from severe withdrawal symptoms. Even in 1975 and 1976 the volume of incoming orders amounted to less than one-third of the completed tonnage, and this disproportion is even greater now.

The thin order books of may shipyards — among them the now one hundred-year old Blohm + Voss yard in Hamburg — have meanwhile shrunk to such an extent as to be insufficient to provide enough work even for the current year. As Werner Bartels, Chairman of the Shipbuilding Industry Association, put it, "We are headed for a major structural crisis."

Bankruptcies among the thirty or so shipyards along the Baltic and North Sea coasts are clearly in the offing. As banker von Sydow put it, "It can only be a last resort for shipyards to build vessels for their own account."

Herr Bartels estimates that of the 30,000 people still employed in the new construction of deep-sea vessels (of a total of 70,000) one in three will lose their jobs; 6,000 became redundant in the period from mid-1975 to the end of 1976.

With regard to the general reduction of production capacities by 30 per cent, as envisaged by Herr Bartels, they will primarily lead to the closure of smaller yards because, as banker von Sydow put it, "shrinking by 30 per cent is economically unfeasible for them."

Only the five big ones, namely Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW), AG "Weser", Blohm + Voss, Bremer Vulkan and Rheinstahl Nordseewerke, could survive such a starvation diet because of the strong major stockholders behind them.

The Salzgitter concern, in which the Federal Republic of Germany has a 74.9 and the State of Schleswig-Holstein a 25.1 per cent stake, decided not to collect its 120 million deutschmarks worth of HDW dividends in order to make sure that the anchor of Germany's largest shipyards holds in the forthcoming storm.

HDW is fortunate enough to still have sufficient orders to keep it busy for the next 18 months — although half of these orders will be loss deals.

The official communiqué in connection with the departure of one of the board members of HDW threw some light on what is in store for the yard.

According to the Salzgitter announcement, Peter Knappertsbusch, in charge of sales, had to go because the top echelon could not be exempted when it came to cutting down on staff.

Understandably, Werner Bartels is reluctant to say which of the shipyards he expects to founder. But even so, he frankly admits that "the shrinking process will hit us hard — despite all assistance measures."

Alarmed by the SOS signals from the shipbuilding industry, Bonn decided to restock the assistance funds. In order to "help get the order books afloat again" as Chancellor Helmut Schmidt put it, Bonn wants to dole out more cash to the shipowners — but of course not for trips to the Far East.

Subsidies will be available only for ships which they have built in this country's yards. Instead of 12.5 per cent of the construction price, as hitherto, they will be made a 17.5 gift by the taxpayer.

But even this is not enough for our shipowners. They know all too well that it is still cheaper to build in the Far East and that, as Henry de la Trobe, head of the Shipowners' Association and of the Oetker-owned shipping company Hamburg-Süd, put it, "This subsidy still falls short of matching international prices."

Another shipowner put it even more bluntly, saying: "Once the crisis is really with us, Bonn will be quite happy to raise its subsidy for new constructions to 22 per cent."

The shipowners are also irked by the conditions which Bonn attaches to the financial booster shot. The thus promoted vessel has to sail for eight years (formerly ten) under German flag. Moreover, the shipowners must permit their books to be audited and must even pay taxes on the subsidies.

In actual fact, the assistance for shipowners — which is paid from the budget of Bonn's Ministry of Transport — was originally introduced in order to offset the added operating costs of ships under German flag. As one German shipowner said, "The English and Greek flags are fifty per cent cheaper."

But although the gap between German and foreign flags has widened rather than diminished in the past, our shipowners must cope with this on their own.

Virtually all of them do so by operating at least some of their ships under flags of convenience. In the case of Oetker, this figure now stands at eleven, the two last vessels having been registered under Singapore flag this month.

They are two 90,000-ton tankers (small enough to pass through he Suez Canal) which Oetker bought for DM35 million each (65 per cent of new value) from the estate of the Greek shipowner Colocotronis.

It is still anybody's guess to what extent these subsidies will used. The relevant application forms have only just been sent to the shipowners.

Moreover, it remains unclear whether the four coastal states of this country will go along with Bonn's proposal to participate with DM25 million in the DM255 million programme. In such a case it would be possible to subsidise DM1,500 million worth of new construction to the tune of 17.5 per cent.

Lower Saxony's Minister of Economic Affairs Ernst Küpker recently rejected this proposal, saying that assistance to the shipyards was a purely Federal matter.

But unofficially, this is considered merely an attempt on the part of Lower Saxony to keep the financial burden for that state as low as possible because it has not yet been decided how the DM25 million is to be divided among the states.

What the argument is all about was recently explained by an official of the Hamburg Economic Affairs Authority, who said: "We don't want to subsidise ships which are then going to be built in Schleswig-Holstein or Lower Saxony yards."

Even though local politicians are leaving the shipbuilding industry in the lurch out of pure state egotism, the shipyards nevertheless managed to get some relief on the international front.

After months of pressure from Western Europe, the Japanese agreed to restraint until the end of 1978.

This means that they will accept no shipbuilding orders for German account during that period, that prices will be increased by 5 per cent and that they will again dismiss as many workers in their shipbuilding industry as they have done since the beginning of the crisis, namely 30,000.

Such limited concessions cannot have been too hard for the Japanese to make because, as the chief executive of the world's largest shipyard, Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries (IHI), put it, "Europe's yards have no future."

Moreover, the Japanese concessions still leave enough loopholes for German shipowners. As one of them said, "If I want to build a ship in Japan I'll get it built there."

Thus, for instance, the ban on German orders does not apply to foreign subsidiaries of German companies. A new construction intended for Germany can therefore easily be built under one of the cheap flags, such as Singapore, Liberia or Panama.

Having extended their shipbuilding capacity by 970 per cent in the past ten years, the Japanese can today meet the entire world demand and will therefore continue to accept German orders notwithstanding formal hurdles. But a Japanese order going to a German shipyard, on the other hand, would be as unheard of, says a German shipbuilder, as a "three-masted barque in the Sahara."

Still, such a miracle heappened only three years ago. The Japanese shipowners Oyama ordered three container ships from the Orenstein & Koppel yard in Lübeck. This was a unique event. But before the first of the three vessels slid down the ways, Oyama was bankrupt.

Heinz Blüthmann

(Die Zeit, 29 April 1977)

Bremen builds most German ships

Recent information made public by the Association of German Shipyards bears witness to Bremen's leading position in shipbuilding.

According to this information, the value of Bremen's shipbuilding production topped all other Federal states in 1976.

With its 1,870 million deutschmarks, Bremen accounted for 31.1 per cent of the Federal Republic of Germany's total shipbuilding production of DM6,000 million.

Bremen is followed by Schleswig-Holstein with 29.8, Hamburg with 22.9 and Lower Saxony with 11.4 per cent.

Concerning labour employed in shipbuilding, however, Bremen occupied second place, with 63,440 employees (26.5 per cent) after Schleswig-Holstein (28.5). Hamburg had 20.7 per cent and Lower Saxony 18 per cent. The overall labour force diminished by 3.232.

DM3,740 million of this country's new construction and repairs in the shipbuilding industry were export orders; 163 sea-going vessels with 2.11 million GRT were completed in this country in 1976.

This is ten units with 0.23 million GRT less than in the previous year.

Günter Beneke-Kracht

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 May 1977)

■ SPACE

Europe's Geos satellite aloft, but in the wrong orbit



DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG
CHRIST UND WELT

At the European Space Operations Centre in Darmstadt, Geos, a satellite recently launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, has created one headache after another for project scientists.

Geos, a 575-kilogram (1,265lb) satellite chock full of instruments and costing 290 million deutschmarks, failed to reach its orbital altitude of 36,000 kilometres (24,000 miles).

It was to have orbited the Earth in exactly 24 hours, thus creating the impression of being stationary, hovering at one spot over the globe.

But there was a short circuit on board the US Thor Delta launcher rocket, so Geos went off at a tangent and into an elliptical orbit with a maximum altitude of 12,000 kilometres (8,000 miles).

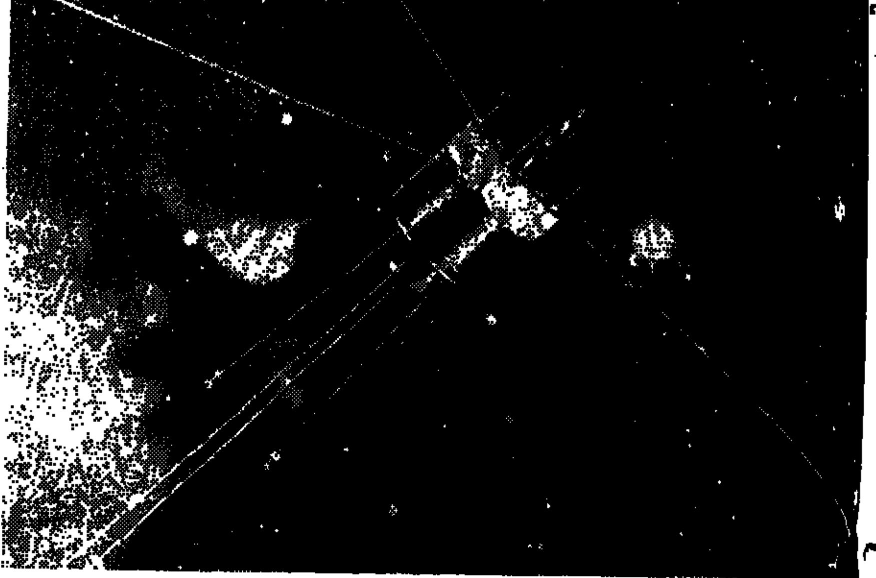
On its present orbit Geos would hardly have been able to carry out the research projects for which it was equipped. Eleven groups of scientists from eight member-countries of the European Space Agency had fitted out the satellite to probe the magnetosphere.

The magnetosphere is the outermost edge of the Earth's atmosphere and is governed by solar winds of electrically charged particles.

On the side of the Earth that is pointing towards the Sun at any given time these solar winds flatten the terrestrial magnetic field into a sector five times the diameter of the Earth.

On the other side the magnetic field is attracted by the solar gusts and distorted into the shape of a comet's tail extending far out into interplanetary space.

The magnetosphere nonetheless performs a vital function, shielding the atmosphere from continual bombardment by solar particles.



The Geos research satellite

(Photo: ...)

Geos was originally intended to man its post for two years, continuously measuring the strength of the magnetic field and shedding light on magnetic and ionospheric disturbances that affect the weather, radio reception and the like.

A number of its sensitive measuring devices are arranged on eight jibs pointing outwards from the shell of the capsule like porcupine quills. Two of these quills are twenty metres (65ft) long.

Solar cells generate sufficient power to work both the instruments and the transmitting equipment on board the satellite.

If Geos was to carry out any of its research programme the men at the Darmstadt control centre had to ensure that its orbit was rearranged to gain at least a little altitude so as to generate sufficient power.

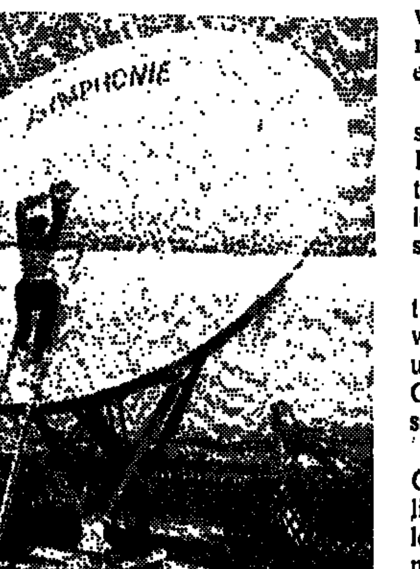
After five sleepless nights the operations engineers finally succeeded in working the satellite's own propulsion unit by remote control and redirecting Geos to an orbit computed to be more satisfactory in every way.

The operation proved a success and Geos is now circling the Earth on an elliptical orbit with a low point 2,130 kilometres (1,330 miles) up but a maximum altitude of 38,500 kilometres (24,050 miles). It completes its new orbit in exactly twelve hours.

So Geos I is now in an orbit that was to have been taken up by Geos II, which is to be launched by Europe's Ariane rocket in December 1979.

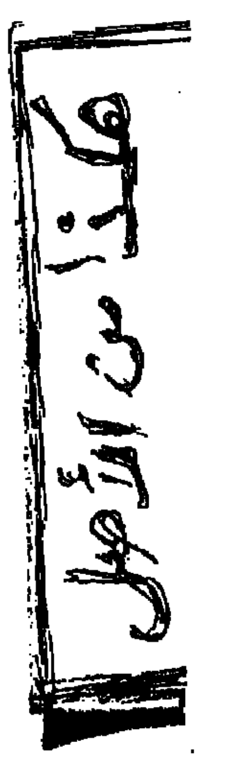
If Geos II can be put into Geos I's geostationary orbit as originally envisaged the entire research programme may yet be completed successfully, albeit in reverse order.

(Deutsche Zeitung, 29 April 1977)



Satellite tracker

This satellite tracking station aerial a mere 4.5 m (14ft 9in) in diameter forms part of a mobile station unveiled at this year's Hanover Fair. The airconditioned container alongside the aerial houses the station's communications and operational systems. 'Symphonie,' the Franco-Federal Republic communications satellite, is designed for two-way use of relatively small aerials. Mobile tracking stations can thus be rushed to disaster areas and oil rigs or research platforms. The station unveiled in Hanover is manufactured by a leading electrical engineering firm in the Federal Republic of Germany, operates in the four to six gigahertz range and is designed for speech, data and teleprinter relay and colour TV reception. (Photo: AEG-Telefunken)



■ CINEMA

Fassbinder's *Chinese Roulette* shows failure of a marriage



Not since *Nora*, a TV film, has Rainer Werner Fassbinder made such an artificial, cold, arty-crafty film as *Chinese Roulette*.

It was shot on location last spring in a small castle in Stöckach, Franconia, where Fassbinder and his production team spent seven weeks virtually isolated from the outside world.

They lived together in the castle and personally underwent the subject of the plot, or perhaps it would be better to say the confrontation between the actors, in *Chinese Roulette*.

The film might best be described as the choreography of a marriage that has proved a failure yet is desperately kept up for appearance's sake.

The protagonists are Christ, played by Alexander Allerson, and his wife Ariana, played by Margit Carstensen. But the motive force behind the action is their daughter Angela, played by Andrea Schober.

Angela, who is paralysed in one leg, is determined to break up the living lie of a relationship that her parents frenziedly try to keep up.

She arranges for her father to arrive at the castle with his French mistress of many years' standing, played by Anna Karina, at the same time as her mother turns up with her lover, Ulli Lommel.

Angela's objective is to make her parents drop their mask of deception, and she finally succeeds in escalating a conflict-laden situation to overt hatred.

The protagonists are not merely the four adulrerers but also Brigitte Mira as the castle housekeeper, Volker Spengler as her son, a young man with poetic pretensions, and Macha Moril as Angela's deaf and dumb nurse.

Angela wants her mother to commit herself to the reason she alleges is responsible for the failure of her marriage — her daughter's illness — but the plan comes a cropper.

On two occasions the mother has a pistol in her hand and is on the point of shooting her child, but each time the father frustrates the murder bid. Instead Angela's nurse dies. A shot is fired in the closing scene of the film too, but Fassbinder does not indicate who the victim is.

Having shot the film in virtually a single location, Fassbinder arranges the action in what, on the face of it, are choreographic movements.

The characters counterpoint one another, the camera pans along reflecting panes of glass, seeks out arts and crafts perspectives among the figures in the castle, moves around outside among the undergrowth and points up at tree-tops.

It is a sterile, inaccessible and select puzzle with few traces of nature or life, since the characters too resort to telltale but unnatural gestures.

They often make faces at each other in accordance with their moods of the moment and seem unable to attempt either subtlety or a cover-up of their emotions. They frenziedly act out Fassbinder's franzied choreographic movements.

There can be no doubt whatever that Rainer Werner Fassbinder, who remains this country's most prolific, dynamic and self-destructive film director, intentionally screened his film in precisely this way.

What he wanted was exact and exalted optical motion, coldness, directness and an exaggerated sense of claustrophobia in which people, like animals in a zoo, stumble against the bars of their cage and are only capable of honest, albeit homicidal, action once all their escape routes are blocked.

In this he succeeds — despite the mannerism. Fassbinder's celluloid gyrations drive the actors into a corner, destroy their ritual and show up the faces behind the masks.

In this game of truth, of *Chinese Roulette*, question and answer so unrelentingly close in on the individual that the or she is eventually left with no option but to explode and nail colours to the mast.

"I mainly made the film because it apperars to support the institution of marriage while showing in greater detail how mendacious and destructive marriage can be than other films ostensibly intended to lambast wedlock," Fassbinder notes.

Regardless of Fassbinder's intentions the revierwer does not feel that *Chinese Roulette* deals such a telling blow at the institution of marriage.

It does, however, bring to the surface an objective he somehow fails to achieve in much of his work — the desire to show genuine affection, true love and, if need be, unbounden hatred.

Poses, phrases and compromises are brutally shown up for what they are — little white lies. The truth is only brought to light by means of a painful process.

The truth may be dreadful, indeed evil, but Fassbinder seems to feel that it is nonetheless more valuable than spurious and insincere harmony of whatever kind.

Eckhart Schmidt

(Deutsche Zeitung, 29 April 1977)



Ulli Lommel and Margit Carstensen in *Chinese Roulette* (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

Christian Ziewer's third film a vivid piece of work

Frankfurter Neue Presse

Der aufrechte Gang (The Erect Gait), Christian Ziewer's third film, starts by showing us a glimpse of life in the Wittkowski household, the home of a fitter on strike.

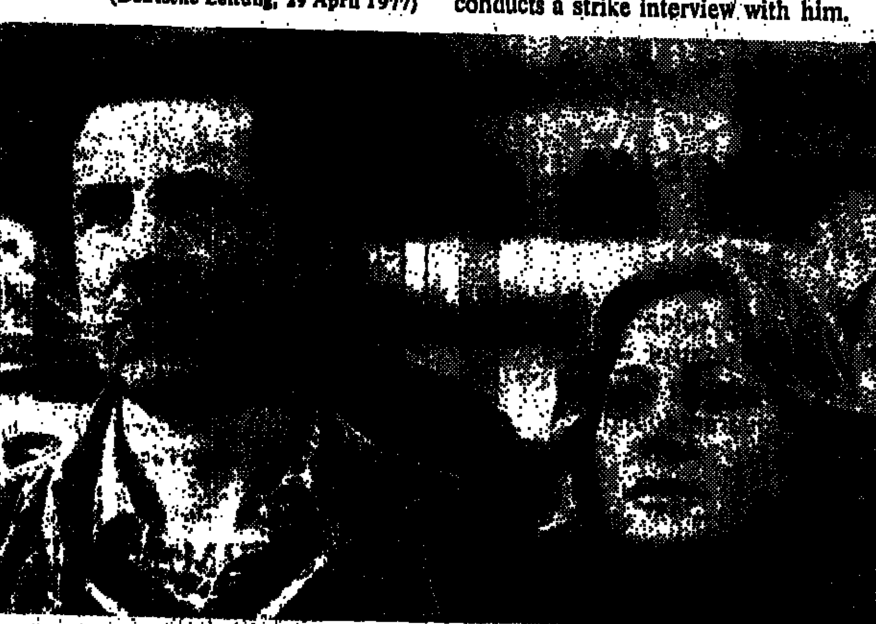
Wittkowski is not only an ordinary working man, he is also a petty bourgeois, to judge by the tasteless furniture in his apartment.

His mental horizons are certainly those of the petty bourgeoisie. What does he most want of life? To walk tall — the erect gait of the title? Not he. He has visions of an expensive car he could not possibly afford.

There he goes, digging his own grave as he works out how he can manage to repay the instalments. The union are on strike for an extra bonus of thirty pfennigs an hour; his financial plans have long since counted this particular chicken.

He aims to work overtime too, but feels that his wife ought to continue working half-days and not take over as manageress of the baker's-shop she has been offered.

Wittkowski is moderately intelligent, but tends to be governed by his emotions and does not have much to say for himself. He finds it hard to express his feelings and is made to look a fool in next to no time by a journalist who conducts a strike interview with him.



Claus Eberth and Antje Hagen in Christian Ziewer's film *Der aufrechte Gang* (Photo: Basis-Film)

He is best able to express himself by playing the concertina. The clash between father and son is presaged by musical discord, a pointer of the kind the director particularly likes.

He feels sick as a dog at a family party, but not because he is drunk. He's shaken stone cold sober by the realisation of the conflict that rages in his immediate environment.

Family life certainly has its problems. Ziewer's dialogues are extremely terse, and possibly overloaded, but his characters cannot be accused of being garrulous.

Christian Ziewer also calls on the services of two first-rate actors, Claus Eberth, the male lead in his previous two films *Liebe Mutter, mir geht es gut* (Mother Dear, I'm Feeling Fine) and *Schneeglöckchen blühen im September* (Snowdrops Bloom in September), and Antje Hagen as Wittkowski's wife.

Claus Eberth plays his part with restraint, but forcibly. Antje Hagen is a quiet, expressive partner.

Tension is maintained for nearly two hours, with astute encouragement from the director. When the strike collapses after four days we learn that the police were involved, but there are no shots of baton charges or anything of the kind. The works council, however, looks out of place and mean and horribly embarrassed.

Ziewer's first two films were much poorer. This time the film is vivid and less of a political poster.

By the end of the film, when a new awareness seems as though it might just dawn, we have been given an insight into the lives of real, vivid people, warts and all.

In one scene, for instance, the foreign workers who are on strike hold a meeting in the meadow in front of the closed and shuttered factory gates, and instead of standing, as strike meetings usually do, they spontaneously sit down on the grass — a distinctive, human touch.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 29 April 1977)

■ EDUCATION

20 projects to determine how best to teach foreign children

The children of foreign workers in the Federal Republic of Germany have an incomparably much harder time than children of German parents working abroad.

While there are German schools available for German children abroad — schools where they are taught along the lines of the German curriculum — the children of so-called "guest workers" in this country have no such facilities at their disposal. They must attend school together with German youngsters.

According to the Federal Ministry for Education and Science, the proportion of foreign students in primary and secondary schools ranges between 3 and 30 per cent, depending on the region.

In 1974/75 there were 358,711 foreign students at such schools, 104,616 of whom were Turks. In 1964/65 these foreign students numbered a mere 35,135 of whom one-third were Turks.

The first "measures for the schooling of guest workers' children" were decided upon at the State Ministers of Education Conference in 1964, following the introduction of compulsory schooling for the children of foreigners as well. The new measures were to "facilitate the adaptation to German schools."

But it was not until 1971 that, in the face of the rapidly growing number of foreign workers who were subsequently joined by their families, the State Ministers of Education established a Work Group whose task it was to coordinate the measures of individual Federal States.

The discussion at the time revolved around two main problems, namely the question whether foreign children should be taught in independent foreign schools or whether they should be integrated in the German school system.

If it could be assumed that the guest workers would be integrated in the political and social system of our state, the decision would obviously have had to be in favour of the integration model.

But if, on the other hand, it was assumed that the foreign workers would spend no more than a few years in this country, it would be unwise to burden the children with the German school system since the training they receive there would not be recognised in their home countries.

The political argument at the time went as follows: The Federal Republic of Germany is not an immigration country and as a result there is no need for educational integration.

The Federal Government's attitude in this connection was summed up in a statement issued on 31 January 1972, according to which "The average stay of foreign workers in this country has increased in length recently, but this has no effect on the present rate of fluctuation.

"This high degree of mobility on the part of foreign workers has beneficial to our economy as a whole."

"This voluntary mobility is not at odds with integration. Even in case of a relatively short stay it should be striven for to integrate foreign workers in the society and economy of our country for the duration of their stay."

This is the reason given for the integration of foreign children in the German school system. But how is this to be achieved?

More than 20 model experiments and research projects had been introduced by the Federation-States Commission by the end of 1976. Two of these models can be singled out as the most successful. Model I is to be found in all Federal States, with Northrine-Westphalia, Bavaria and, shortly, Baden-Württemberg supplementing it by Model II as well.

In Model I, all foreign children attend regular German schools following a one to two-year transitional phase. The mother language is taught outside the curriculum of the regular school, and children are given time off from school to attend such classes.

This language instruction is not subject to German supervision, but to that of the school authorities of the children's home countries.

In Model II, children who cannot follow instruction in German are grouped in special classes as soon as there are at least 25 children with the same mother tongue available. Eight hours a week are set aside for German lessons.

In subjects where understanding the German language is not of paramount importance these foreign children are taught together with their German counterparts. If the parents so wish, the children can subsequently transfer to regular German schooling.

Model II has proved particularly advantageous to all concerned, namely children, teachers and parents. As the Federal Ministry for Education and Science put it: "Physical and psychological stress is avoided by teaching in the mother tongue. The mother tongue is a compulsory compulsory subject and has its firm place in the regular curriculum. The host country language is taught as a foreign language."

Polls among parents and children attending such classes showed that all concerned were satisfied with this arrangement. But this is no reason for the Bonn Government to be satisfied, since the creation of such "ghetto classes" is exactly what the Government did not want.

The German Trade Union Federation (DGB) had this to say on the subject in a comment of 1 June 1973: "The DGB emphatically rejects all types of consular and national schools. It is not conducive to the social integration of foreign workers to have their children taught — isolated from the German youth — according to educational principles of their home countries which so greatly differ from our own."

The educational practice to date has clearly shown that these children are caught between two worlds. Will they weather the situation unscathed?

Peter Brinckmann

(Die Welt, 29 April 1977)

Too many children watch late-night shockers on TV

It was past midnight a few weeks ago when "The Wizard" in a horror film shown on one of this country's major TV networks struck. Glued to the TV screen as the gory scenes unfolded were 60,000 children aged between three and seven and 230,000 eight to 13-year olds.

When "Hard Fists Toted Hot Colts" the wee hours of the 13th of March were already with us. Just before 1 a.m. there were still 50,000 three to 7-year olds and some 170,000 eight to 13-year olds toting along.

And when "Criminel File No. XY Unsolved" (a re-enactment of actual crimes for the purpose of enlisting public support in tracking down the criminals) began on 11 March, there were 140,000 small and 1.5 million bigger children watching — representing 29 per cent of their respective age groups.

These frightening figures speak for themselves. But since *teleskopie*, the Institute for Research into TV Attitudes, began examining the viewing habits of children on 7 March the astute observer of conditions has to bear several shocks. Compared with the figures mentioned above, those relating to TV programmes made specifically for children seem insignificant, to say the least.

Thus, for instance, the Sunday children's programme *Die Sendung mit der Maus* (The Show with the Mouse) attracted a measly 46,000 three to 7-year olds on 17 April. *Rappelliste*, another children's programme, had 73,000 viewers in the same age group, and *Pan Tau* boasted 60,000.

But a whacking 1.16 million three to 7-year olds turned on and had themselves turned on by the 7.30 p.m. *Hitparade*, the beat rhythms of which are said to promote nervousness.

Doctors, psychologists and educationalists lament the disastrous consequences of the laxity of those parents who deliver up their children to the "electronic babysitter" without giving it a second thought. They have been doing so for years - millionfold.

Says the Hamburg child psychologist Dr Hans Peltz: "The former family circle has become a semicircle. I have for a long time had to reckon with the disturbance factor of television in case histories."

The psychologist repeatedly encounters in his practical work children who have suppressed their feeling of abandonment by the family and who suffer severe psychological traumas when confronted with similar situations on television.

Since children learn from living examples, they naturally emulate TV heroes, which can lead to severe aggression or withdrawal into passivity.

Although these facts are in no way new and although experts keep stressing the dangers of uncontrolled TV viewing by children and although even the Federal Centre for Health Information has published television advice for parents, millions of parents completely ignore their children's attitude towards that medium.

Since even adults look at television aimlessly and thoughtlessly, it never occurs to them hat they should protect their children from a similar addiction and educate them to be more discriminating in choosing programmes.

According to experts, a democratically arranged TV viewing programme for a whole week within the family circle would avert some of the worst dangers.

There have been some indications latterly that children have more commonsense than adults.

Polls conducted among 900 youngsters in England, aged between 11 and 15, show that they complained about

Continued on page 12

Eleven-day course in Russian at Hanover TU

Unbelievable though it might sound, Professor Siegfried Halbauer of the Hanover Technical University teaches scientists and engineers technical Russian in eleven-day crash courses.

Although this does not enable his students to buy a theatre ticket in Russian, they can cope with any technical or mathematical problem in that language.

The purpose of the courses is to enable its participants to read or even translate specialised Russian literature.

The Halbauer method has been used since 1968 and has meanwhile been adopted by major industrial corporations. In fact, the Russians themselves recommend this method.

The whole thing began in a Soviet POW camp. Halbauer, who wanted to become a journalist, delved deeply into the Russian language and began to seek ways and means of learning it by jettisoning superfluous verbiage and grammar.

This is the very system he now employs in the five specialised fields of his method — general natural sciences, technology, mathematics, chemistry and transformer technology. Using a computer, he established the most frequently used and most important specialised terminology.

Of the 21,000 words which Professor Halbauer culled from books and magazines and fed into a computer, the electronic brain filtered out 200 constantly recurring terms for each discipline of science.

And only these 200 terms need be memorised by his students. Says Professor Halbauer: "The more specialised a field, the fewer the terms that have to be remembered."

In concrete terms, this means that turbine technologists can master 67 per cent of the terminology used in that field by memorising 215 words, plus 15 per cent of foreign language terms, which makes a total of 82 per cent of that field's terminology.

The Halbauer method is known throughout the world, and the Professor receives enquiries from as far away as Thailand, wanting to know how his method can be adapted to the Thai language.

But of course Professor Halbauer's linguistic research goes much further. At present he is engaged in statistics dealing with the length of words, although he keeps reverting time and again to his crash course.

Says he: "My method would also enable a student of Latin to pass an examination in eleven days." And indeed Caesar's Gallic Wars is essentially written in specialised martial terminology which would pose no probelm for the computer and could be taught along the lines of Professor Halbauer's tried and proven method.

Such technical Russian is obviously inadequate when it comes to ordering a meal in a restaurant or carrying on a conversation.

Even newspapers do not become more easy to read, since the necessity of using a dictionary all the time spoils even the last bit of pleasure such an endeavour might hold.

But the time-saving is enormous, and as a result Professor Halbauer has more students than he can handle.

Hans Kallies

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 1 May 1977)

■ CITIES

Green plan for Reeperbahn makes bar-owners see red

The local papers were delighted to her that Hamburg's notorious Reeperbahn is to become a tree-lined avenue with a central reservation full of greenery.

Hamburger Morgenpost, for instance, was fulsome in its praise of the 9.4-million-deutschmark project, details of which had just been released by the city authorities.

The owner of a St Pauli striptease club was far from overjoyed. He is worried lest the trees overshadow his neon lighting and prove to have an adverse effect on business.

"Besides", one Reeperbahn habitué pointed out, "nearly all the St Pauli prostitutes are dog-owners and now they will solicit custom as they take their dogs for a walk beneath the trees."

The Reeperbahn has certainly been a sorry sight for the past three and a half years, pitted with road works as an underground railway is dug from one end of St Pauli to the other.

It is not certain to be transformed into a tree-lined avenue over the next year or two, however. A substantial number of bar-owners are planning a protest campaign. What the Reeperbahn badly needs, they say, is more parking facilities for visitors.

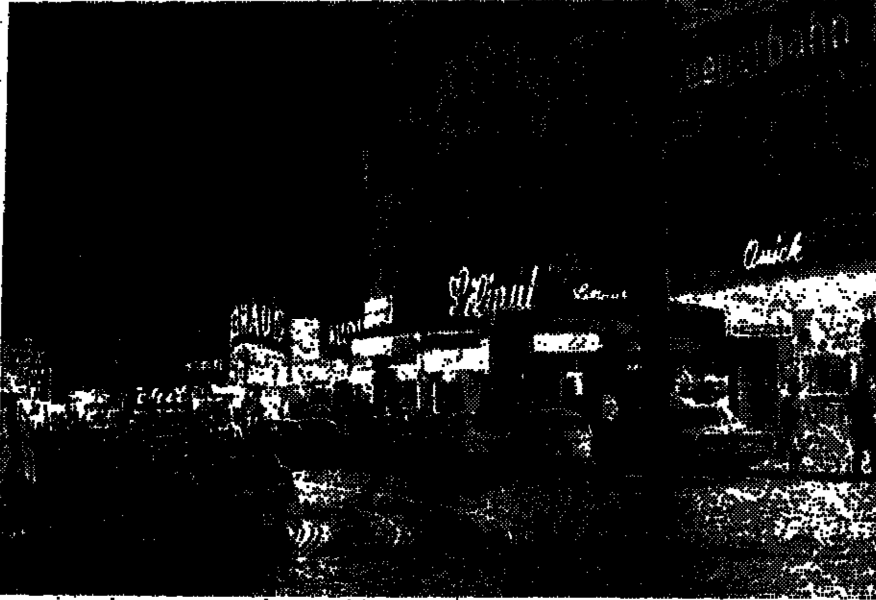
Views about St Pauli have always differed in Hamburg. The Hamburgers have mixed feelings about the Reeperbahn even though it accounts for 200 million deutschmarks in business at a cautious estimate every year.

Local people would not, for the most part, dream of going for a walk along the Reeperbahn or the Grosse Freiheit, home of countless striptease clubs and, for many years, the Star Club, where the Beatles worked for a while before they really made a name for themselves in the early sixties.

They would certainly not deign to visit a striptease show or look at a blue film. St Pauli, most local folk feel, is strictly for the tourists.

But when friends and relations come for a visit they are invariably escorted to Hamburg's "sinful mile" for an evening out. Oddly enough, they are then proud to be able to say that St Pauli is in Hamburg.

Local politics where the Reeperbahn is concerned are also governed by this irreconcilalbe contradiction between the sentiment that St Pauli is a disgrace and the covert feeling of pride that the Reeperbahn is one of the sights of the city.



St Pauli's notorious Reeperbahn

Until the late sixties the official attitude was one of embarrassment. The Reeperbahn might not go away but the authorities chose, on the whole, to ignore it.

Only Kurt Falck of the borough licensing authority, dubbed the "Iron Broom of St Pauli," did anything about the situation. Now and again Herr Falck embarked on headline-hitting campaigns to clean up the area.

Kurt Falck may have done his best to fight crime, violence and prostitution, but by 1970 St Pauli was so rife with crime that small-town visitors preferred to steer clear of the area, patronising striptease clubs in the countryside instead.

After a visit to Hamburg Ian Nairn wrote in the *Sunday Times* that the Reeperbahn was vastly overrated. "St Pauli," he told British readers, "is a bogus facade erected solely for the purpose of conning visitors."

He was not far wrong and the authorities finally began to sit up and take notice, worried lest the plummeting reputation of St Pauli might rebound on that of Hamburg itself.

In the early seventies a concerted effort was undertaken to clean up the Reeperbahn and vicinity. Local parents called for an end to streetwalking during the daytime so that their children could go to and from school unmolested.

Since 18,000 people live in the vicinity the parents had a point. The authorities banned prostitutes from walking the streets except in a clearly defined area between eight at night and six in the morning.

Police raids on disreputable bars were stepped up. So were regular patrols. A number of brothels were shut down. Catering staff with a criminal record were banned from setting foot in St Pauli bars.

Even the porters whose job it is to entice passers-by to step inside for a quick look at the floor show ("No obligation, mind, but it's hot stuff, I assure you") began to find life more difficult.

They used almost to drag people indoors but those days are over. In 1972, for instance, hefty fines were imposed in 210 cases for molesting the general public.

The Reeperbahn, pessimists warned, is going to die its death of boredom. But gloomy forecasts of this kind have yet to be proved accurate. A stroll round St Pauli can still be an expensive evening out. Chief Inspector Borchert of the Davidswache, the local police station, advises visitors not to overdo their drinking, not to take more money with them than they intend spending and not to venture alone into the sleazier bars.

Take along plenty of small change and leave those high-denomination notes at home, he says. Steer clear of unsolicited friends in bars and clubs and don't, whatever you do, heap abuse on the prostitutes that line a number of streets.

Before you know what has hit you you may find yourself being mugged by their pimps, Inspector Borchert warns.

Dieter Stäcker

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 April 1977)

Lübeck's Holstentor is 500 years old

Holstentor, the hallmark of Lübeck and the emblem on the back of the fifty-deutschmark note, is 500 years old this year.

This testimony in stone to Hanseatic power of old by the shores of the Baltic took eight years to build and was completed by Lübeck architect Hinrich Helmstede in 1477.

The foundation stone was laid by Lübeck councillor Johann Broling in 1464, who left the city 4,000 marks in his will for the construction of a new gateway.

Nearly four centuries later the Holstentor was almost demolished. It was badly in need of costly repairs and the city council decided by a majority of one not to demolish it in 1863.

The debate caused a stir at the time, with art-loving King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia and Emanuel Geibel, a local-born poet, pleading for preservation.

The gate owes its name to a dialect form of the name Holstein, the state lying due south of the city. Another gateway, Renaissance in style but architecturally less significant, had already been demolished in 1851 to make way for the railway from Lübeck to Büchen.



Lübeck's Holstentor (Photos: Conti-Press)

The Holstentor now houses a civic museum. Between its twin towers the city's Latin motto, *Concordia domi foris pax* (harmony at home, peace outside the city walls), is spelt out in letters of gold.

The city intends to celebrate its 500th anniversary with a festival in the picturesque *Altstadt.*

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 30 April 1977)

Artist H. Dieter Bohnet's plastic sculpture at the Stuttgart garden show (Photo: dpa)

Stuttgart hosts national floral show

Stuttgart, the capital of Baden-Württemberg state, seems to have been an enormous building site for years, but the hoardings are down and traffic diversions are a thing of the past in time for the fourteenth Federal horticultural show.

Major cities take turns to host this festival of greenery, and Stuttgart proves no exception to the rule that local authorities try hard to make the city a sight for sore eyes.

Federal President Walter Scheel has just inaugurated this year's show at a ceremony held against the romantic background of Rosenstein Castle.

It is the third time Stuttgart has hosted the show wince the war, and 27.5 million deutschmarks have been spent on smartening up a 44-hectare (110-acre) site extending from the main railway station to the banks of the River Neckar in neighbouring Bad Cannstatt.

This city-centre park will be a blaze of colour until 23 October and open to the public for 178 days. Some ten million visitors are expected to pass through the turnstiles.

Oberbürgermeister Manfred Rommel, son of the wartime field-marshal, intended not to fritter away Stuttgart's reputation for Swabian thrift, but the inaugural show features no fewer than 600,000 tulips, narcissi and pansies.

Two years ago in Mannheim there were a mere quarter of a million flowers in bloom at the opening ceremony. Stuttgart flowers were even strewn on visitors from a Zeppelin hovering over-

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■ SPORT

Biological aids take over in the race for sporting prowess

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

Prominent scientists reckon we are in a process of transition from the chemical to the biological age in respect of alien influences that can be brought to bear on the human frame.

Take, for instance, sport in the seventies, with competiting social systems vying to demonstrate their superior prowess in dozens of disciplines.

For the general public the news that the Soviet Union has finally overtaken the United States in the race for Olympic medals is no less exciting than the race to the Moon.

Both sides spare no expense, resorting to any method available to be first past the post, and neither of the superpowers are averse to manipulation of the athlete's mind and body.

Bomber pilots in World War II may have been plied with amphetamines to keep fatigue at bay or with pervitin to create a feeling of euphoria, but drugs of this kind went out with the Ark, pundits claim.

Doping in this classic manner is old hat. Chemical warfare has now been superseded by biological warfare in top-flight competitive sport.

Weight-lifter Rolf Milser, for instance, underwent blood transfusions to ensure peak performance, while this country's swimmers at Montreal had their insides pumped full of air to make them lighter in the water and enable them to gain a surreptitious advantage over the others.

But the most widespread form of doping in this day and age is the use of anabolic steroids, or muscle-building hormones, despite the fact that endocrinologists unanimously agree they are harmful.

Yet ambitious specialists in sports medicine continually try to convey the impression that it is a storm in a teacup. Herbert Reindell, president of the Federal Republic Council of Sports Medicine, has dubbed team doctors of this kind "performance physiologists pure and simple."

Dr Reindell, the Freiburg specialist, doubtless has in mind men like Professor Josef Keul who prescribe muscle pills for athletes yet are also members of commissions set up to combat doping.

The doctor who goes furthest in this approach is probably the Cologne physiologist Alois Mader, who defected from Halle in the GDR a few years ago with all manner of prescriptions such as the berolase jab.

Dr Mader marshals Marxist verbiage to decry the purists, calling for an end to the taboos that surround the use of steroids.

It is unfair, he claims, to allow a promising young athlete to beaver away for years at a punishing training schedule, but to bar him or her from taking muscle pills which are harmless provided only they are taken in small doses and under medical supervision.

Dr Mader surely reaches the height of cynicism with the following argument. In the past, he maintains, women with the highest androgen count among their hormones were bound to monopolise the shot-put medals.

Relentless training and limbs of the right length were not enough, since women with a lower androgen count were unable to develop such bulging muscles.

Thus, Dr Mader blandly argues, anabolic steroids assure all women athletes of a fair crack of the whip. If they take their steroids as instructed there is no limit to the muscle they can develop.

At some stage of the proceedings the sense of justice or fair play seems to have gone haywire. Athletes, coaches and medics invariably point accusing fingers at the unsavoury practices of the others, who leave them with little option but to follow suit.

No one would dream of advocating the rehabilitation of a 400-metre runner, for instance, who cut a corner to gain an unfair advantage.

Yet no one seems to care two hoots about the ban on anabolic steroids which forms part of the Olympic statutes and the rules and regulations of most associations and federations.

Not long ago Munich shot-put specialist Eva Wilms was in the news as a victim of anabolic steroids. She not only has the appropriate stature and build; experienced endocrinologists claim that her voice has already undergone irreversible, unmistakeable changes.

The spotlight of public opinion has now focussed on Annegret Richter, the Dortmund girl who who the 100 metres gold medal at Montreal.

Willi Daume, president of the National Olympic Committee, did her a disservice by offering her the services of his lawyer and applying for injunctions against people who dared to suggest that she too may have resorted to prohibited drugs.

Manfred Ommer, an athlete who owes his own silver medal at the European championships to the use of anabolic steroids, has taken up the challenge and intends to prove that Annegret Richter is a fellow-offender.

Even Willi Daume himself, the Dortmund iron and steel manufacturer who brought the 1972 Olympics to Munich, now seems to have been tarred with the same brush.

Herr Daume may repeatedly talk in terms of the humanisation of top-flight sport, but he invariably backs the specialists in sports medicine to the hilt.

Yet Willi Daume was certainly in the know about the controversial injection which allegedly robbed Hamburg's Peter-Michael Kolbe of Olympic gold in the single sculls at Montreal. He must also have known about the air pumped into the swimmers.

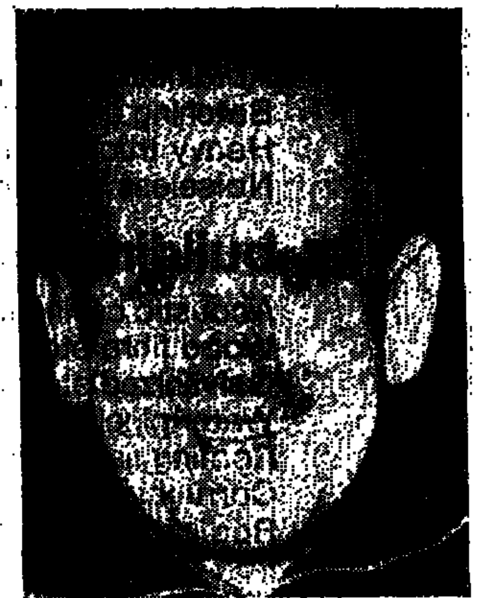
Sport in this country has come to resemble the sorcerer's apprentice in that things have got out of control. The time has come for legislation against doping, as in France and Belgium.

It is an unsatisfactory state of affairs, to say the least, when the senior forensic scientist in charge of doping tests, Dr Donicke, happens to be a subordinate of Professor Kirsch, head of the board of governors of the Federal Sports Science Institute and president of the Amateur Athletics Association.

Why? Because, according to hammer-thrower Edwin Klein, 95 per cent of the AAA's top-flight athletes take the muscle pill.

Manfred Steffny

(Deutsches Allgemeine Sonntagsblatt, 1 May 1977)



Sepp Herberger dies

Sepp Herberger died aged eighty on 28 April. He captained and coached his country's soccer team for 28 years and is best known as the coach who guided his squad to World Cup honours at Berne, Switzerland, in 1954. Only a month before his death he was showered with congratulations on turning eighty. His death, after watching a soccer international on TV, marks the end of an era in which the Federal Republic of Germany made both a post-war comeback and an indelible mark on the association code of international football. (Photo: Nordbild)

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head — a sight the city had not seen since Kaiser Wilhelm II's silver wedding.

A miniature railway tours the park, but pedestrians can also walk along paths and over eye-catching bridges, feasting their eyes on flowers of all kinds, especially roses (100,000 of them in 250 different varieties).

There are plenty of attractions for the children too: a playhouse and children's workshop, a play street and an open-air theatre for six- to thirteen-year-olds.

The largest floral hall, clad in plastic foil, is the size of a cathedral. The show has an international flavour too, with gardeners and florists from all over Europe exhibiting.

The Horticultural Association's pavilion is an architectural sensation. It is made of fibreglass-reinforced concrete only one centimetre thick even though a 33-metre (108ft) arch is spanned.

The building material is the result of a research project conducted at Stuttgart University department of structural engineering.

Ten fountains are fed by local springs. The Baden-Württemberg state pavilion features a programme ranging from puppet theatre to political platform debates.

The new planetarium, computerised, features 8,992 stars in a faithful reproduction of the night sky screened by 150 projectors.

More than 300 bands and theatre companies employing 15,000 people or so and hailing from all manner of countries have been hired during the summer season.

The highlights of the show will be the country dancing days (28 to 31 July), the rose festival (15 to 17 July) and the three long nights, dedicated to Baden-Württemberg (18 June), Greece (6 August) and Brazil (13 August).

The show will also feature local delicacies and specialities, especially wine, and visitors can take a seat on the terraces and rest their aching feet while they watch the Baden-Württemberg version of a rodeo.

Fridtjof Theegarten

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 April 1977)

Nürburgring decision within six months

In six months at the latest the Federal government as majority shareholder in the company that runs the Nürburgring racetrack will decide whether to give the go-ahead for the construction of a new-look Nürburgring or to sell its holding.

The company was instructed last December to consider the "possibilities and cost of building a new, shorter track," says Lothar Wrede, parliamentary state secretary to the Ministry of Transport. "We have to be careful with the taxpayers' money," he commented. *sid*

(Die Welt, 21 April 1977)